

MlrWave1

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

19 Cr. 374 (JMF)

5 MICHAEL AVENATTI,

6 Defendant.

Trial

7 -----x
8 New York, N.Y.
9 January 27, 2022
9:00 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. JESSE M. FURMAN,

12 District Judge
13 -and a Jury-

14 APPEARANCES

15 DAMIAN WILLIAMS

16 United States Attorney for the
17 Southern District of New York

18 BY: MATTHEW D. PODOLSKY

19 ROBERT B. SOBELMAN

20 ANDREW A. ROHRBACH

21 Assistant United States Attorneys

22 MICHAEL AVENATTI, Defendant *Pro Se*

23 DAVID E. PATTON

24 Federal Defenders of New York, Inc.
25 Attorney for Defendant

BY: ROBERT M. BAUM

ANDREW J. DALACK

TAMARA L. GIWA

Standby Assistant Federal Defenders

Also Present: Special Agent DeLeassa Penland

U.S. Attorney's Office

Christopher de Grandpre, Paralegal Specialist

Juliet Vicari, Paralegal

MlrWave1

(Trial resumed; jury not present)

THE COURT: You may be seated. I don't want Mr. Macias in here just yet, but is he ready to go?

MR. PODOLSKY: I'm told he is right in the room back there.

THE COURT: Great.

Anything to discuss from the government?

MR. PODOLSKY: I suppose two discovery-related matters just to put on the record, and I don't know that there's relief at the moment, but first is 26.2 material. We raised this, I think, yesterday or the day before. We spoke to standby counsel. We understood there wasn't a great quantity but it would be produced last night. It still hasn't been produced. We don't know how long the cross of Ms. Daniels will go, but we're prepared to rest as soon as tomorrow, depending on the length, and we've received nothing. So we want to put that on the record.

THE COURT: Is she your final witness?

MR. PODOLSKY: We have two more witnesses after that. They're relatively brief. We have the book publisher -- someone from the book publisher, and we have a summary witness who will offer a, like, timeline chart of the various communications in this case.

THE COURT: OK. I'm guessing the cross is going to take a while, but I could be wrong. Understood, and I'll hear

MlrWave1

1 from Mr. Avenatti on that in a moment.

2 Second issue.

3 MR. PODOLSKY: I think we had referenced this in court
4 as well. We had issued a trial subpoena to Mr. Avenatti for
5 the materials he had represented in court that were relevant
6 and he had obtained from a server. We understood he was going
7 to comply with that. We had conversations with standby counsel
8 about that as well. We understood they were going to be
9 produced last night. We haven't received anything. Obviously,
10 again, we're drawing closer to the end of the government's
11 case.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 Mr. Avenatti.

14 MR. AVENATTI: Yes, your Honor. Good morning.

15 My understanding is that the 26.2 materials are very,
16 very limited. They will be produced today.

17 THE COURT: Can you speak into the microphone, please.

18 MR. AVENATTI: The 26.2 materials are very, very
19 limited. They will be produced today. We have already been
20 producing materials off of the servers as we've been acquiring
21 them and becoming aware of them. But the materials off the
22 servers, we're going to continue to do so pursuant to the
23 rolling production that was previously discussed with the
24 Court.

25 As it relates to Ms. Daniels, for the Court's

MlrWave1

1 information, we are informed that the government's direct is
2 three hours. I estimate my cross is going to be approximately
3 six hours. I also intend to re-call Ms. Daniels in my case in
4 chief to cover areas not covered in my cross-examination. So I
5 expect her to be a witness in my case in chief. She's been
6 under subpoena, under defense subpoena for about two or three
7 weeks at this juncture.

8 So I just inform the Court of that this morning to
9 make the Court aware of it as well as make the government aware
10 of it.

11 THE COURT: OK. Well, we'll see about that six hours.
12 As you know, I'm not averse to exercising my authority under
13 Rule 611 to control cross-examination, but be that as it may.

14 Mr. Podolsky, your response to the prospect of calling
15 her in the case in chief, I guess my -- certainly in civil
16 cases my practice is to just have witnesses testify once even
17 if they're on both sides' lists and not have them here twice
18 and permit cross to go beyond the scope of the direct. I don't
19 know if I should do the same here.

20 MR. PODOLSKY: I've certainly been amenable to that in
21 prior cases and will do the same here.

22 I will note that I'm skeptical of the notion that
23 there's six hours of cross-examination and then additional
24 questions that would go beyond that and not be irrelevant or
25 cumulative. But to the extent that there are some relevant

MlrWave1

1 questions that go beyond the specific confines of the direct,
2 we'll certainly be reasonable and don't see any reason to call
3 her back just to waste everyone's time. So we agree with your
4 Honor.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti.

6 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I'm not interested in
7 wasting anyone's time. I am interested, though, in putting on
8 a case for this jury, a case in chief, which I'm entitled to
9 do. I'm also entitled to elicit testimony from the witness on
10 cross-examination and complete the impeachment in my case in
11 chief. I'm specifically allowed to do that.

12 THE COURT: I want authority from you for the
13 proposition that you're entitled to call her a second time as
14 part of your case in chief as opposed to being allowed to go
15 beyond the scope of the direct in your cross. That is to say,
16 my inclination is to have her testify a single time and permit
17 you latitude to go beyond the scope to elicit information that
18 you would be allowed to elicit if she were testifying as part
19 of your case in chief. If you can present authority to me that
20 that would be error, I'm certainly happy to reconsider.

21 Since we're not going to get there this morning,
22 you'll have an opportunity to present that to me before it's
23 ripe. All right?

24 MR. AVENATTI: Fair enough, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: As for the six hours, obviously, we'll see

MlrWave1

1 that as it comes.

2 I guess you got your answer with respect to the
3 defense materials. It sounds like they are coming, and I will
4 trust that Mr. Avenatti complies with his obligations.

5 MR. PODOLSKY: Your Honor, just one thing, and maybe
6 Mr. Sobelman has some additional facts to address with respect
7 to these materials.

8 I do want to just point out the defendant has elided
9 his obligations under the subpoena with his exhibit production.
10 He specifically represented to the Court that he identified a
11 wealth of materials that were relevant. That's what we've
12 asked for. Instead, what he's done is produce isolated
13 exhibits, often late, the night before. What we're looking for
14 are the materials that he has in his possession that are
15 responsive to our subpoena. And frankly, we will move to
16 compel if he won't do that, particularly since we're drawing
17 close to the end of our ability to offer them in our case.

18 THE COURT: All right. If you move to compel, I will
19 consider that. If there is some appropriate instruction to the
20 jury if he fails to comply with his obligations, then I'll
21 consider that. Until there's a ripe issue or any application,
22 I'll leave it there.

23 Mr. Avenatti filed a letter with respect to the issue
24 that we had discussed at the end of yesterday. I want to raise
25 two issues for you to just put on your radar and raise as a

MlrWave1

1 possibility for you to submit things.

2 No. 1, I don't know whether Mr. Avenatti will testify
3 or not. The time will come where I inquire, but I think it
4 pays to think ahead about what that looks like if he does,
5 since he's now representing himself. I think there are
6 different approaches taken to that. I would welcome your
7 thoughts on what that would look like, recognizing that it may
8 be a moot point if he doesn't testify. But I think we should
9 all be prepared for that possibility.

10 No. 2 is the *quantum meruit* business. I've read the
11 case that Mr. Avenatti cited to me yesterday and it really
12 isn't particularly on point since it pertains to, No. 1, a
13 lawyer who has been discharged by the client -- that's not my
14 understanding of the circumstances here; and No. 2, a
15 contingency fee agreement, which is not what we have here. Be
16 that as it may, it also doesn't discuss the factors that are
17 relevant to the *quantum meruit* analysis.

18 That being said, the *quantum meruit* argument is an
19 interesting one, and I want to think through how it figures
20 here. One question is whether and to what extent Mr. Avenatti
21 can inquire on cross of Ms. Daniels. That's the one that we
22 obviously are focused on in the short term.

23 I think we can distinguish between two things. One is
24 her opinions of the quality of his work. I don't see any
25 relevance to that whatsoever. That's not a factor in *quantum*

MlrWave1

1 *meruit* under any case law that I have seen.

2 The second is the objective quality of his work and
3 the results that he secured, and my inclination is that he
4 should be permitted to delve into that to a limited extent so
5 long as it's not cumulative, it's not confusing, it's not
6 misleading. I'm inclined to let him build at least some record
7 on that to potentially support the argument that he's trying to
8 make.

9 I think the broader and bigger question is sort of how
10 this ultimately gets to the jury, if it gets to the jury at
11 all, and I guess there, too, I think there are two ways to
12 think about it. One is whether the doctrine applies at all.
13 My understanding of *quantum meruit* is that it arises almost
14 always, if not always, in the context of a former relationship;
15 that is, where the attorney-client relationship is over,
16 usually the lawyer has been fired and the lawyer is seeking to
17 get compensation for the reasonable value of his services.
18 Again, here, Mr. Avenatti apparently fired Ms. Daniels, not the
19 other way around.

20 No. 2, the allegations in this case concern conduct
21 during the attorney-client relationship, not afterwards. So in
22 that sense, I wouldn't think *quantum meruit* applies at all. It
23 doesn't strike me as a doctrine that is relevant. I am not
24 aware of authority that would justify a lawyer taking money
25 during the attorney-client relationship on the grounds that

MlrWave1

1 under some *quantum meruit* notion he would be entitled to it if
2 he sought it from a court; that is to say, I think it is a
3 cause of action. I think it's a cause of action that generally
4 arises after the attorney-client relationship has come to an
5 end. So I don't think objectively it applies here. That being
6 said, I think Mr. Avenatti is onto something if he had a good
7 faith belief that he was entitled to it. I think that probably
8 is a valid defense to a claim of fraud; that is to say, even if
9 it's a mistaken belief that he had a good faith belief and the
10 jury agrees that he had a good faith belief, as crazy as it may
11 have been, then I think that may be a valid theory. The
12 question is can he make that argument without testifying to the
13 jury that he had that belief based solely on the record as
14 developed through Ms. Daniels or otherwise? And is he entitled
15 to an instruction if he doesn't testify?

16 These are the issues that I'm thinking of and just
17 flagging for consideration and potential briefing.

18 I don't think we need to get into it any further now.
19 As I said, I think I'm inclined to let him elicit some of the
20 sort of objective facts of results that he obtained for
21 Ms. Daniels to develop the record on it, but I think there are
22 some larger issues here that I just wanted to flag for you to
23 start thinking about and we can decide and discuss how best to
24 raise them.

25 Mr. Podolsky.

MlrWave1

1 MR. PODOLSKY: If I may?

2 I won't address the substance, we can put in a letter
3 on this. I think there are even additional reasons that this
4 doctrine or idea really has no relevance to this case, but we
5 can develop them in a letter rather than spend our time now.

6 I think the one thing that may be relevant to say now,
7 however, is to the extent Mr. Avenatti seeks -- two points.

8 One, to the extent he seeks to put in the quality of
9 his work, we may well seek to put in evidence that the cases
10 were dismissed, had negative results. I don't really want a
11 mini trial on this, but to the extent that he tries to press to
12 the jury the success of his cases, we may offer evidence to the
13 contrary. And so I just want to say that.

14 THE COURT: Certainly if he starts to elicit positive
15 results, I certainly think it opens the door to you developing
16 the record that that is not an accurate picture. So
17 understood.

18 MR. PODOLSKY: No. 2, I don't know, again, that this
19 is necessarily -- well, it could actually be relevant today.

20 The defendant yesterday, and as I understand the
21 *quantum meruit* theory, was that he had some entitlement to a
22 reasonable amount of the book proceeds based on his work on the
23 book. I believe that's what he said in open court yesterday.

24 As I understand that, the relevance, therefore, of all
25 of the work he did on the many lawsuits is actually completely

MlrWave1

1 irrelevant, because his theory, as articulated yesterday in
2 open court, is that what entitled him, in his mind, to take
3 some of Ms. Daniels's book proceeds without her knowing was all
4 the wonderful, important, hard work he did on the book. And if
5 that's the case, I fail to see the relevance of however many
6 hours he spent and however well he did on other lawsuits that
7 have nothing to do with that contract.

8 THE COURT: All right. Understood. And certainly
9 that will be part of what we need to discuss. I'm not inclined
10 to discuss it further now. Mr. Avenatti will have ample
11 opportunity to address it, and my guess is having something in
12 writing, including, for instance, whether you think any
13 instructions to the jury on this issue are appropriate or
14 necessary would be probably in order. But we'll discuss that
15 in due course.

16 Let's get Mr. Macias out here so that when the jury
17 arrives we're ready to go.

18 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I have one exhibit that I'm
19 going to use for impeachment. I'm going to hand a copy to the
20 government and to the Court now in the interest of time.

21 THE COURT: Please.

22 MR. AVENATTI: May I approach, your Honor?

23 THE COURT: Give it to my law clerk, please.

24 MR. PODOLSKY: Your Honor, I'll say this. I have no
25 idea what this is. It has no Bates number. I've never seen it

MlrWave1

1 before. I don't know who it's between. I know nothing about
2 this document or whether it's authentic or anything.

3 THE COURT: All right. Perhaps a foundation will be
4 laid. We'll see.

5 I would like the witness.

6 MR. PODOLSKY: Your Honor, I understand he had just
7 gone to the restroom. I'm sorry.

8 THE WITNESS: Good morning, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Good morning. You're welcome to remove
10 your mask now.

11 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, to alert the Court, I am
12 going to refer to pages 760 and 761 from the transcript of
13 yesterday.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 (Continued on next page)

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: You may be seated.

3 Good morning. Welcome back. You guys are earning
4 your gold stars as a jury. I love that you've been here on
5 time every day and allowed us to start promptly.

6 We will continue the cross-examination of Mr. Macias.

7 SEAN ERNESTO MACIAS, resumed.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Macias, I remind you that you remain
9 under oath.

10 Mr. Avenatti, you may proceed.

11 MR. AVENATTI: Thank you, your Honor.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION CONTINUED

13 BY MR. AVENATTI:

14 Q. Good morning, Mr. Macias.

15 A. Hello.

16 Q. I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you.

17 A. Hello.

18 Q. Between the time that you left yesterday and this morning,
19 you saw some of the press reports about the trial day
20 yesterday, did you not?

21 A. I did not.

22 Q. Is it your testimony that you have not seen any press
23 reports about this trial since it started?

24 A. I was asked not to look at any press reports.

25 Q. That's not my question. Is it your testimony that since

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 the trial started you have not seen any press reports about
2 this trial?

3 A. I saw a headline. But then I didn't click on it.

4 Q. Is it your testimony that you have seen no social media
5 posts about this trial since it began?

6 A. No Instagram or Facebook.

7 Q. OK. Well, have you seen any social media post about this
8 trial since it began, whether it was Facebook or Instagram or
9 some other social media platform?

10 A. I'm a little bit confused with your question. Was it from
11 last night or from the time that it began? What did you say?

12 Q. Since the trial began, have you seen any social media posts
13 about this case, whether they be on Twitter, Facebook,
14 Instagram, or some other social media platform, Mr. Macias?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. OK. And on what social media platforms did you see posts
17 about the trial?

18 A. I saw a post that had my name on it from a Twitter account.
19 I believe it was Ron Richards.

20 Q. And did you read the post? It's a yes-or-no question.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. OK. Is that the only social media post that you have seen
23 since the trial began?

24 A. That I have seen, no. I have seen them, but I haven't read
25 them.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 Q. OK. Well, how was it that you saw them?

2 A. When I -- I guess I just looked on my phone and it was
3 there.

4 Q. Well, what do you mean you just looked on your phone and
5 they were there?

6 A. I can't explain anything more than that. That's pretty
7 detailed.

8 Q. Well, you testified on direct in excruciating detail about
9 conversations that happened --

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 Q. -- two or three years ago?

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 BY MR. AVENATTI:

14 Q. Mr. Macias, you made an effort to read some social media
15 posts about this trial since it began, did you not?

16 A. No, I didn't make an effort.

17 Q. OK. Well, how was it exactly that you came to read these
18 posts; for instance, the one from Mr. Richards?

19 A. I don't recall. Someone sent it to me, and then I opened
20 it up and it said -- it had a letter from Dalack to the Court
21 regarding --

22 Q. I don't want to get into the details yet. And so you saw
23 that there was a letter that had been filed by Mr. Dalack, is
24 that right?

25 A. Yes.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 Q. OK. And you've also had occasion to see other social media
2 posts about the trial on your phone; I think you just testified
3 to that --

4 A. I did.

5 Q. -- correct?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. And who were those social media posts by?

8 A. I don't know. I just saw a headline.

9 Q. Well, what do you mean you saw a headline on your phone?

10 A. It was on a headline saying that you were going to court.

11 Q. So is it your testimony that you only saw two social media
12 posts since the trial began? Yes or no.

13 A. I would say no, because there was, like, a chain of posts
14 that had -- that you were going to trial.

15 Q. OK. So how many social media posts have you seen since the
16 trial began? Is it two, or is it a number greater than two?

17 A. Well, I'm getting confused with seeing it and reading, like
18 reading them.

19 Q. I'm asking you about seeing it right now, sir.

20 A. I don't know. There was a handful of or a couple posts
21 that were lined up that said you were going to trial from
22 different media sources.

23 Q. OK. So could you estimate for the jury; are we talking
24 three, five, ten?

25 A. I don't guess.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 Q. OK. I'm not asking you to guess. It wasn't that long ago,
2 right? The trial just started a few days ago; you know that,
3 right?

4 A. So what's your question?

5 Q. You know the trial started just a few days ago --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- on Monday?

8 A. Yes, it started on Monday.

9 Q. OK. So we're talking about something that happened over
10 the last 72 hours, right?

11 A. No. I think I saw that post on fry -- the post with
12 Richards was Friday.

13 Q. So is it your testimony that since Monday you haven't seen
14 any social media posts?

15 A. I didn't say that. What I said was I saw my phone, and
16 there were some posts that were on -- that said you're going to
17 trial. Stormy Daniels.

18 Q. Those are all the posts, social media posts that you've
19 seen?

20 A. That I can recall.

21 Q. Well, it's only been three days, right; we just established
22 that?

23 A. There's a lot going on in these three days. I have to face
24 my old friend --

25 MR. AVENATTI: Move to strike, your Honor.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 A. I have to be here. There's a lot going on.

2 THE COURT: Move on. Next question.

3 BY MR. AVENATTI:

4 Q. Mr. Macias, has there been a lot going on in the last two
5 years? Yes or no.

6 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 A. That would be --

9 THE COURT: Mr. Macias, sustained.

10 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 THE COURT: Sustained. Don't answer if I sustain the
12 question.

13 Next question.

14 BY MR. AVENATTI:

15 Q. Mr. Macias, does your memory generally get better or worse
16 over time?

17 A. I have a pretty good memory when things are important.

18 Q. Have you seen any news reports on the television about this
19 case since it began?

20 THE COURT: Sustained.

21 A. No.

22 THE COURT: Asked and answered.

23 THE WITNESS: No.

24 BY MR. AVENATTI:

25 Q. Now, Mr. Macias, I think you estimated that it was about

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 five times you've met with the government in connection with
2 this case. Am I right about that or wrong about that?

3 A. Give me -- give me a beat.

4 Approximately five. Could be -- yeah, five times.

5 Q. And that was five times beginning in 2019 and continuing
6 until when?

7 A. I believe it was sometime last week.

8 Q. And when you met with the government last week, who did you
9 meet with?

10 A. I believe it was this gentleman, Michael or Matthew
11 Podolsky; this young lady over here.

12 MR. AVENATTI: Let the record reflect he's identified
13 Agent Penland.

14 A. And then there was another guy, and I think it might be
15 him, but I'm not sure.

16 MR. AVENATTI: Let the record reflect that the witness
17 has pointed at Mr. Rohrbach.

18 THE WITNESS: Rohrbach, yes.

19 Q. Was that in person or via Webex?

20 A. Webex.

21 THE COURT: Is that a platform like Zoom or Teams or
22 something like that?

23 THE WITNESS: I have no idea.

24 THE COURT: A video?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes, your Honor.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 THE COURT: OK.

2 BY MR. AVENATTI:

3 Q. And each of those five times, including last week, you
4 insisted on having a lawyer present, isn't that true?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you believed you needed an attorney because you had
7 criminal exposure, true?

8 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

9 THE COURT: Sustained. Asked and answered.

10 A. Not at all.

11 THE COURT: Sustained. You don't have to answer. In
12 fact, you may not answer if I sustain the objection. So please
13 wait for my ruling. Thank you.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.

15 BY MR. AVENATTI:

16 Q. Sir, as you're on the stand today, you're concerned that
17 the government is going to charge you for things completely
18 unrelated to me, isn't that true?

19 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection. Asked and answered.

20 THE COURT: Sustained.

21 BY MR. AVENATTI:

22 Q. In fact, Mr. Macias, isn't it true that your home was
23 previously searched by the federal government?

24 THE WITNESS: Can I answer that?

25 THE COURT: You may.

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 A. Absolutely not.

2 Q. Isn't it true your offices were previously searched by the
3 federal government?

4 THE WITNESS: Can I answer?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 A. Absolutely not.

7 Q. Is it your testimony, Mr. Macias, under oath, that no
8 location or company that you have been affiliated with has ever
9 been searched by the federal government?

10 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Can I have a sidebar with counsel and Mr.
12 Avenatti, please.

13 (Continued on next page)

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 (At sidebar)

2 THE COURT: Can you please tell me your good faith
3 basis for these questions.

4 MR. AVENATTI: Yes. About two years ago, Mr. Macias
5 informed me that his home and his offices had been previously
6 searched by the FBI in connection with an investigation that
7 resulted in criminal charges, certainly around Mr. Macias, and
8 that he was concerned at the time that he was going to be
9 criminally prosecuted, your Honor. That's my good faith basis.

10 MR. PODOLSKY: I have never heard of such a thing. I
11 have no ability to evaluate this. As far as I know, the
12 federal government in the last few years has conducted no
13 searches of any project related to Mr. Macias.

14 MR. AVENATTI: That's in the last two years, your
15 Honor. This was before the last two years.

16 MR. PODOLSKY: I think you just represented it was in
17 the last two years.

18 MR. AVENATTI: No I didn't.

19 THE COURT: He said approximately two years ago.

20 MR. PODOLSKY: OK.

21 As far as I know, there has been no such federal
22 search related to Mr. Macias. I'm aware of no charges against
23 Mr. Macias. In fact, we check these things, and I'm aware of
24 no basis for this.

25 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, to be clear, two years ago

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 he told me that the searches had been conducted previously, not
2 contemporaneously at the time.

3 THE COURT: OK.

4 MR. AVENATTI: I want the record to be clear.

5 THE COURT: And what relevance does that have to his
6 bias or motive to lie in his testimony today? In excess of two
7 years ago, is there any basis to argue that he has a reason to
8 believe that he's in jeopardy of prosecution today?

9 MR. AVENATTI: Yes, your Honor. If it's within the
10 statute of limitations, absolutely. I was not expecting him to
11 claim on the stand that it didn't happen. I was expecting him
12 to admit that it happened, at which point I was going to
13 explore when it happened.

14 MR. PODOLSKY: I believe Mr. Avenatti got the answer
15 he got. There's nothing to contradict it. The man has
16 repeatedly said, under frankly, separate questioning, that he
17 has no concerns about his exposure. I think it's time to move
18 on.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I think I have a pending
21 question. I'd like that last question answered, and I'll be
22 happy to move on.

23 THE COURT: What was the pending question?

24 MR. AVENATTI: I believe the question was is it your
25 testimony that no company that you were ever affiliated with

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 had their offices searched.

2 MR. PODOLSKY: Relevance, your Honor.

3 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, he was at the company at
4 the time.

5 MR. PODOLSKY: Relevance.

6 MR. AVENATTI: And he was an executive at the company.

7 THE COURT: All right. I'm not going to allow it.

8 (Continued on next page)

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 (In open court)

2 BY MR. AVENATTI:

3 Q. Mr. Macias, what is a legal malpractice lawsuit?

4 A. A legal malpractice lawsuit, if you fall -- if a lawyer
5 falls below the standard of care and is sued for some sort of
6 negligent activity or omission.

7 Q. Have you ever been a defendant in a legal malpractice
8 lawsuit or arbitration proceeding?

9 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

10 THE COURT: Sustained.

11 BY MR. AVENATTI:

12 Q. Mr. Macias, what is an expert witness?

13 A. It's a witness that has expertise above and beyond a
14 reasonable person that can explain about a certain topic or
15 process to a court, mainly to a jury, and that can give and
16 opine and make an opinion about a process or situation and a
17 determination.

18 Q. Do you ever hire expert witnesses?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. For what purpose?

21 A. To provide legal opinions -- or, excuse me, to provide
22 professional opinions regarding a certain matter in court; to
23 assist the trier of fact, which would be the jury; to help them
24 make their opinions and judgments.

25 Q. Are you careful when you select your experts?

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 BY MR. AVENATTI:

4 Q. Mr. Macias, isn't it true that in late 2018, you hired me
5 to serve as an expert witness in a very high-profile matter for
6 you, sir? Yes or no.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Mr. Macias, are you careful when you select your expert
9 witnesses?

10 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

11 THE COURT: Sustained.

12 BY MR. AVENATTI:

13 Q. Mr. Macias, who is Mel B?

14 THE WITNESS: I just want to know what the relevance
15 of this is.

16 THE COURT: Just answer the question. If there's an
17 objection --

18 A. Mel B is a Spice Girl, an iconic rock star, a beautiful
19 lady.

20 Q. Mel B is a client of yours, correct?

21 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

22 THE COURT: Sustained.

23 BY MR. AVENATTI:

24 Q. Mr. Macias, isn't it true that you hired me as an expert
25 witness in a matter involving Mel B in late 2018?

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 MR. AVENATTI: It goes to bias.

4 THE COURT: I understand. Sustained.

5 BY MR. AVENATTI:

6 Q. Mr. Macias, isn't it true that, in fact, you had me serve
7 as an expert witness in the capacity of an attorney in an
8 arbitration proceeding where you offered my testimony as an
9 expert on the law?

10 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

11 THE COURT: Sustained.

12 BY MR. AVENATTI:

13 Q. And isn't it true, sir, that that matter dealt with the
14 issue of legal malpractice?

15 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

16 THE COURT: Sustained.

17 Let's move on, Mr. Avenatti.

18 BY MR. AVENATTI:

19 Q. Now, Mr. Macias, you recall you gave testimony here
20 today -- or here yesterday, correct?

21 A. I can't hear you, Michael.

22 Q. Mr. Macias, you recall you gave testimony here yesterday,
23 right, under oath?

24 A. Yeah, I was here yesterday.

25 Q. OK. And all of that testimony was truthful and accurate,

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 wasn't it?

2 A. To my best of my ability, as I sit here today, absolutely.

3 Q. OK. I want to ask you about some of your testimony at the
4 end of yesterday.

5 MR. AVENATTI: Could we please have the transcript,
6 pages 760 and 761.

7 THE COURT: For the witness only, please.

8 A. Is there a line you would like me to look at?

9 Q. Do you have the testimony there, sir?

10 A. I do, Michael.

11 Q. OK. Mr. Macias, I'd like you to follow along with me, if
12 you would, please.

13 A. Well, what page and line, sir?

14 Q. Page 760, line 3.

15 A. Got it.

16 MR. AVENATTI:

17 "Q. Mr. Macias, on direct examination, you were asked a number
18 of questions about your efforts to raise money for me in August
19 and September of 2018. Do you recall that?"

20 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

21 THE COURT: Well --

22 MR. PODOLSKY: Asked and answered.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, can you just get to the
24 point here. Let's not reread the transcript. The jury's
25 recollection of testimony will govern, and as I will tell them

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 later, if they want any read backs of the testimony, they can
2 get that during their deliberations. So just ask your
3 question, please.

4 BY MR. AVENATTI:

5 Q. Mr. Macias, directing your attention to page 760, towards
6 the bottom, you were asked a question relating to the fact --
7 isn't it true that your efforts to find money for me related to
8 my campaign, and you answered "absolutely not" --

9 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

10 Q. -- is that correct?

11 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

12 THE COURT: Overruled.

13 BY MR. AVENATTI:

14 Q. That was your testimony, right?

15 A. You can't -- you've got to give me a beat. Let me answer
16 one question at a time, Michael.

17 "Absolutely not." Yes, that's what I said.

18 THE COURT: Can you keep your voice up.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's what I said.

20 THE COURT: All right. Let's take this down, please.

21 MR. AVENATTI: Could I have exhibit DX-AB for the
22 witness only.

23 THE WITNESS: Is it in the book?

24 THE COURT: I think it's on your screen, sir.

25 BY MR. AVENATTI:

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 Q. Sir, can you see DX-AB on your screen?

2 A. I see --

3 Q. That's a yes-or-no question.

4 A. Stop.

5 I see it, but it doesn't -- it's -- it doesn't look like a
6 text, but yes, I see it. I see words on a screen.

7 Q. Mr. Macias, isn't it true that on August 29, 2018, in
8 response to me informing you that I liked Tulsi Gabbard from
9 Hawaii in connection with my campaign, that you informed me
10 that you were going to get me, quote, some do-re-mi so I could
11 run like a banshee?

12 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 You may answer.

15 A. I do use the phrase "do-re-mi."

16 Q. Sir, just answer my question, please.

17 A. I can't decipher if this is my --

18 Q. Sir --

19 A. -- text.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Macias, he's not asking you about
21 what's on the screen.

22 In fact, let's take down what's on the screen, please.

23 The question is did you send a text to him stating
24 that on August 29? Yes or no.

25 THE WITNESS: The document that I saw --

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 THE COURT: No.

2 THE WITNESS: -- doesn't refresh --

3 THE COURT: No.

4 THE WITNESS: -- my recollection.

5 THE COURT: No.

6 THE WITNESS: No.

7 THE COURT: That's not the question.

8 Sitting here today, do you know, did you send him that
9 text that said that? Yes, no, or I don't remember.

10 THE WITNESS: I don't remember.

11 BY MR. AVENATTI:

12 Q. Are you denying that you sent a text that said that?

13 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 BY MR. AVENATTI:

16 Q. Mr. Macias, isn't it true that on August 29, 2018, you sent
17 me a text that said: "I am getting you some do-re-mi so you
18 can run like a banshee. We'll need you for a meeting"?

19 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

20 THE COURT: Sustained. Asked and answered.

21 Q. Mr. Macias, take a look at DX-AB.

22 MR. AVENATTI: If we could have it on his screen,
23 please.

24 THE COURT: You may. Just for the witness.

25 BY MR. AVENATTI:

MlrWave1

Macias - Cross

1 Q. Mr. Macias, looking at DX-AB, does that refresh your
2 recollection that, in fact, on August 29 you did send me that
3 text?

4 THE COURT: Mr. Macias, now the question is having
5 looked at this document, whatever it may be -- the question
6 isn't what the document says. It is sitting here today, does
7 it refresh your recollection that you sent a text stating what
8 Mr. Avenatti said on August 29?

9 THE WITNESS: This document doesn't refresh my
10 recollection.

11 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I offer DX-AB.

12 MR. PODOLSKY: Objection.

13 THE COURT: Denied. I mean sustained as to the
14 objection, and the offer is denied.

15 BY MR. AVENATTI:

16 Q. Mr. Macias, I think I only have one last question, but I
17 reserve the right to maybe ask a couple more, so here's my last
18 question.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, just limit yourself to the
20 questions, please.

21 MR. AVENATTI: Understood, your Honor. Thank you.

22 Q. Mr. Macias, you currently serve as my estranged wife's
23 lawyer in connection with our divorce proceeding, isn't that
24 true? Yes or no.

25 A. Yes.

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 MR. AVENATTI: Nothing further at this time.

2 THE COURT: Redirect?

3 MR. PODOLSKY: No, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Macias --

5 THE WITNESS: Am I excused, your Honor?

6 THE COURT: -- you are excused. Put your mask on
7 before you leave the box.

8 (Witness excused)

9 THE COURT: Counsel, can you, while you call your next
10 witness and get the witness, just retrieve whatever's in the
11 witness box.

12 Can you call your next witness, please.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: The government calls Enrique Santos.

14 ENRIQUE SANTOS,

15 called as a witness by the government,

16 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 THE COURT: You may proceed.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

20 Q. Good morning, Mr. Santos.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. What organization do you work for?

23 A. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New
24 York.

25 Q. How long have you worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office?

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 A. I'll have 14 years this March.

2 Q. What position do you hold with the U.S. Attorney's Office?

3 A. I'm an investigative analyst.

4 Q. What unit do you serve in at the U.S. Attorney's Office?

5 A. The district criminal intelligence unit.

6 Q. What are your duties and responsibilities in the criminal
7 intelligence unit?

8 A. I perform forensic examinations of multiple devices, such
9 as cell phones, computer tablets, and GPS devices. And I also
10 operate an evidence vault.

11 Q. What do you mean by forensic examinations?

12 A. It use -- it means that we use technology guided by the
13 scientific principle to try to recover data from mobile devices
14 in a manner in which the data isn't altered. We try to
15 maintain it in the condition it was in when it was first found.

16 Q. Can you please generally describe your training with
17 respect to your work with cell-phone data?

18 A. I currently have approximately 160 hours worth of formal
19 classroom training regarding forensics. I've attended numerous
20 forensics-related webinars, conferences, and similar events.
21 And I've received certifications for each of the forensic tools
22 that I use.

23 Q. During your time working at the U.S. Attorney's Office,
24 approximately how many cell phones have you examined?

25 A. Over 2,000.

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 Q. What, if any, experience do you have with examining
2 cell-phone data stored in the cloud?

3 A. I've currently examined between -- probably close to a
4 hundred extractions like that.

5 Q. What types of cloud data do you have experience examining?

6 A. Apple iCloud extractions generally, but also Google,
7 Facebook returns, Instagram, things like that.

8 Q. Approximately how many iCloud accounts have you
9 forensically processed?

10 A. Between 50 and a hundred.

11 MR. SOBELMAN: Your Honor, at this time the government
12 would offer a stipulation marked for identification as
13 Government Exhibit S2, and we would also read it at this time.

14 THE COURT: Admitted, and you may.

15 (Government Exhibit S2 received in evidence)

16 MR. SOBELMAN: Government Exhibit S2, paragraph 1,
17 states that:

18 "The parties agree iCloud is a file hosting, storage,
19 and sharing service provided by Apple that can be used to back
20 up or store data and files from devices, including an iPhone."

21 Q. Mr. Santos, next to you on the witness stand there's an
22 object marked for identification as Government Exhibit 401. Do
23 you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. SOBELMAN: Now reading from paragraph 2 of

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 Government Exhibit S2:

2 "Government Exhibit 401 is a flash drive that contains
3 an authentic copy of documents -- sorry, authentic copy of the
4 contents from iCloud account 280926611 as they existed on
5 Apple's systems at the time they were produced pursuant to a
6 court-authorized search warrant on or about August 22, 2019.
7 The name of the subscriber of the iCloud account 280926611 was
8 Michael Avenatti, the defendant, and the associated email
9 account was mavenatti@eaganavenatti.com."

10 Q. Mr. Santos, next to you on the witness stand is another
11 object marked for identification as Government Exhibit 402. Do
12 you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is it?

15 A. This is another flash drive that contains the data provided
16 to us by Apple in the form of an iCloud account. The data
17 that's stored in Government Exhibit 401, except on this drive
18 I've loaded that data into a forensic tool called Cellebrite,
19 and that tool parsed out that data and created a report. So
20 that's what's on this drive; it's a report.

21 Q. And what do you mean by parsed out the data and created a
22 report?

23 A. The forensic tool that we use, Cellebrite, parses out the
24 data -- means it categorizes that data that's found as part of
25 the iCloud production -- and puts it into a format that's easy

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 to read, easy to navigate through. You can search, you can do
2 key-word searches of the data. You can filter out certain
3 pieces of data. You can sort the data. So it just makes it
4 more manageable.

5 MR. SOBELMAN: Please show the witness what's marked
6 for identification as Government Exhibit 612.

7 Q. Mr. Santos, do you recognize this?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. What is it?

10 A. This is a screenshot from the forensic tool Cellebrite.
11 Specifically, it's from the device information section of the
12 report, and part of the iCloud production included an iPhone,
13 the backup of an iPhone 10S. So that's what we're seeing here,
14 is a description of the phone.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: The government offers Government
16 Exhibit 612.

17 THE COURT: Any objection?

18 MR. AVENATTI: None.

19 THE COURT: Admitted.

20 (Government Exhibit 612 received in evidence)

21 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's please display it for the jury.

22 Q. Mr. Santos, again, this is a screenshot you took?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And what do we see here?

25 A. This is a description of the phone that was backed up to

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 the iCloud account. Specifically, it shows unique identifying
2 numbers of the device, including an IMEI number, a phone number
3 related to the device, the make and model of the device, any
4 connected Apple IDs and as well as some of the settings that
5 were present on the device at the time of the preservation by
6 Apple.

7 Q. What is an Apple ID?

8 A. An Apple ID is basically sort of like a username that's
9 used by Apple so that people can log in to their accounts and
10 sort of navigate through their data.

11 Q. And what was the Apple ID on this iCloud backup file?

12 A. It's mavenatti@eaganavenatti.com.

13 Q. And what kind of device did this account back up to the
14 iCloud account?

15 A. This specific device is an iPhone 10S.

16 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take this down.

17 Q. Mr. Santos, what, if anything, did you do to prepare for
18 your testimony today?

19 A. I went through the production that was, that I was provided
20 for this case and I loaded it into the Cellebrite, and I was
21 asked to focus on one specific conversation between this device
22 and a contact saved as Stormy Daniels.

23 MR. SOBELMAN: Can we please show the witness what's
24 been marked for identification as Government Exhibit 613.

25 Q. Mr. Santos, do you recognize this?

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 A. I do.

2 Q. What is it?

3 A. This is another screenshot from the forensic tool that I
4 took. Here, we're focusing on a, on identifying information
5 from a WhatsApp chat string between Stormy Daniels and the
6 owner of this device.

7 MR. SOBELMAN: The government offers Government
8 Exhibit 613.

9 THE COURT: Any objection?

10 MR. AVENATTI: None.

11 THE COURT: Admitted.

12 (Government Exhibit 613 received in evidence)

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Please display it for the jury.

14 Q. Mr. Santos, please describe what we see here on this
15 document.

16 A. So, in this section, we would see the participants of the
17 specific conversation. So here, you have -- Stormy Daniels is
18 listed as the first participant, and where you see the
19 redaction, it would be her phone number, because that's her
20 sort of contact on WhatsApp. And below that is the other
21 person that's part of the conversation. It reads "unknown."
22 Usually you would see the owner's -- of that device's or that
23 WhatsApp account's name.

24 Cellebrite usually gets these numbers from the contacts
25 list, but for this specific device, the phone number wasn't

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 present in his own contact list. So that's why you see the
2 word "unknown." But Cellebrite also puts the phrase "owner" to
3 make it clear who's the owner of the device so you can see
4 which messages are the outgoing messages when you're looking at
5 the chat string.

6 Q. So just to be clear, there are two participants in the
7 conversations that you examined, is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And one was saved as Stormy Daniels, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the other is listed as unknown, but it has the
12 designation "owner," is that right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And can you tell us again, what does owner mean in this
15 context?

16 A. So, owner's a designation that's made by Cellebrite, by the
17 forensic tool that I use. It usually -- it's usually listed
18 next to the messages that are outgoing on the device to make it
19 clear, you know, which are the outgoing messages, which side of
20 the conversation is from that device.

21 MR. SOBELMAN: Can we put up Government Exhibit 612
22 next to this, please.

23 Q. Just to be clear, owner in Government Exhibit 613 refers to
24 the person using the phone reflected in Government Exhibit 612,
25 is that right?

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. SOBELMAN: OK. We can take these down. And just
3 show the witness what's been marked for identification as
4 Government Exhibit 5. And if we could put up the first page
5 and the last page, please.

6 Q. Mr. Santos, do you recognize this?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. What is it?

9 A. This is the entirety of the WhatsApp conversation between
10 Stormy Daniels and the owner of this device.

11 Q. And how do you know what this document is?

12 A. I created it.

13 Q. How did you create it?

14 A. Using the forensic tool Cellebrite, I navigated towards the
15 conversations between Stormy Daniels and the device, and I
16 created a report. And I specifically chose the bubble-chat
17 version to make it easy to follow in court.

18 MR. SOBELMAN: Can we take this down, please.

19 Q. Mr. Santos, did you review government exhibits marked for
20 identification as 6 through 60 and their subparts in
21 preparation for your testimony today?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And what are those?

24 A. Those are just excerpts of the chat conversation.

25 Q. So each of those exhibits is a smaller part of what was in

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 Government Exhibit 5, is that right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And with respect to some of the exhibits, they have A, B,
4 or C or D after them, is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. For example, 16, Government Exhibit 16 also has Government
7 Exhibit 16A, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what do the A, B, C, D exhibits contain?

10 A. Some of the chats included attachments, in the form of
11 photos. So that's what those are; they're just attachments to
12 the conversation.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: At this time, your Honor, the
14 government will offer a number of exhibits. I'll read them
15 slowly, two or three dozen of them.

16 THE COURT: OK. Slowly, please.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Yes, your Honor.

18 The government offers Government Exhibit 6, 16, 16A,
19 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 28A, 29, 32, 33, 33A, 34, 35,
20 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 50A,
21 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 55A, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 60A through D.

22 THE COURT: Any objections?

23 MR. AVENATTI: Objection, your Honor. Foundation.
24 Hearsay.

25 THE COURT: All right. Give me a moment, please.

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 Overruled and admitted. And just to be clear -- all
2 right. Overruled and admitted.

3 (Government Exhibits 6, 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20-21, 25,
4 26-28, 28A, 29, 32-33, 33A, 34-42, 44-50, 50A, 51-55, 55A,
5 56-60, and 60A-60D received in evidence)

6 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's take a look at just a few of the
7 messages. If we could put up what's now in evidence as
8 Government Exhibit 6.

9 Q. Mr. Santos, let's just get oriented with looking at these.
10 There are blue bubbles and green bubbles, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And what account were the blue bubbles sent by?

13 A. The contact saved as Stormy Daniels.

14 Q. And what account were the green bubbles sent by?

15 A. The owner of the Apple iCloud account, so it would be
16 Michael Avenatti.

17 Q. And it says Stormy Daniels on the blue messages at the top,
18 is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. On the green, though, it says unknown?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you just remind us, why does it say unknown?

25 A. So, the name of the person sending or receiving these

MlrWave1

Santos - Direct

1 messages would usually be derived from the contact list saved
2 on the phone. For this specific device, the device phone
3 number for this iCloud account isn't saved in his contacts. So
4 the Cellebrite tool doesn't have something to cross-reference
5 the account with.

6 Q. And although the name doesn't show up, you can tell what
7 account it was sent and received by, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And it's the one associated with the phone we talked about
10 earlier?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. At the bottom of the messages, there's a date and time. Do
13 you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 (Continued on next page)

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 Q. What does that reflect?

2 A. The time and date that the message was set to receive.

3 Here it is set to New York Eastern Standard -- Eastern Daylight
4 Time.

5 Q. There is something beneath the messages that says "status."
6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What does that mean?

9 A. On an incoming device, it could tell whether the message
10 was read or not.

11 Sorry, the directionality of the message.

12 Q. So here, the first message says "read." What does that
13 tell you about the directionality of the message?

14 A. That it was an incoming message and the device detected
15 that it was read by the device, the message was looked at.

16 Q. The Stormy Daniels account sent it to the device that these
17 messages were from, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that the Stormy Daniels -- this device, the defendant's
20 device, read that message, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Underneath that it says "platform mobile." What does that
23 mean?

24 A. It means it's coming from a cell phone or some sort of
25 mobile device, maybe a tablet or probably the iPhone.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 Q. Let's read these messages.

2 If you could please read the blue and I will read the
3 green.

4 Q. "Who is Judy?"

5 A. "My trusted assistant who I trust with my life. Number one
6 on my list of trusted people close to me. She can be trusted
7 with anything. Knows more about my life than I do."

8 Mr. Santos, can you just remind us, what is the date
9 on these messages?

10 A. February 28, 2018.

11 Q. Let's take a look at a couple more.

12 MR. SOBELMAN: Please put up Government Exhibit 48.

13 Q. Mr. Santos, what account sent this message?

14 A. This is from the Stormy Daniels contact to the phone.

15 Q. What account was it sent to?

16 A. The Michael Avenatti iCloud.

17 Q. If you can just lean into the microphone. I am in a glass
18 box and it's a little hard to hear.

19 A. Into the Michael Avenatti account.

20 Q. What is the date on this message?

21 A. December 5, 2018.

22 Q. Can you please read the message on the screen?

23 A. "When is the publisher going to cough up my money?"

24 MR. SOBELMAN: Please go to the next page.

25 Q. Mr. Santos, what account sent this green message?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 A. This is an outgoing message from the Avenatti account.

2 Q. This is the same day as the prior message, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It reads, "As for publisher, working them and threatening
5 litigation. They need to pay you the money as you did your
6 part and then some."

7 Let's take a look at the rest of the messages on the page.

8 Mr. Santos, can you please read what is in the blue
9 bubbles?

10 A. The next message says, "Ummm, yes."

11 Then below that, "How can they think for one moment
12 that they can get away with not paying me?"

13 Q. Let's go to the next page.

14 Who sent this message?

15 A. This is an outgoing message from the Avenatti account.

16 Q. It reads, "No, they will have to pay you, Stormy."

17 Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 52.

18 "Any word from the publisher?"

19 Let me just pause. I am going to ask you this just to
20 make sure there is no misunderstanding.

21 Who sent or from what account sent the blue messages?

22 A. This is an incoming message from the Stormy Daniels
23 contact.

24 Q. To the Avenatti account?

25 A. Correct.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 Q. And on the right, in the green bubble, who sent that
2 message?

3 A. An outgoing message from the Avenatti iCloud account.

4 Q. What is the date on these messages?

5 A. January 15, 2019.

6 Q. Mr. Santos, can you please read the first bubble?

7 A. "Any word from the publisher?"

8 Q. "Not yet, but I expect this resolved this week. Will be
9 good to get you the money. When do you look at the property?"

10 A. "Supposed to next week but going to book it till" -- excuse
11 me. "Supposed to next week, but not going to book it till I
12 have the money."

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Please go to the next page.

14 Q. "Got it."

15 Just one more. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 60.

16 Mr. Santos, who are these messages sent by?

17 A. The Avenatti iCloud account.

18 Q. What account was it sent to?

19 A. The Stormy Daniels.

20 Q. What date are these messages?

21 A. February 15, 2019.

22 Q. This message reads, "I have good news re the book. I can
23 call you in about two hours."

24 "Just got out. Can you call me?"

25 "Trying to reach you. Can you call me? Thanks."

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 "Can you give me a call re the book payments, etc."

2 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's go to the next page.

3 Q. What is the date on these messages?

4 A. February 18, 2019.

5 Q. "Been trying to reach you since Friday re the book
6 payments, etc. Please get back to me. Thanks."

7 Q. What are in the next two messages, the blue messages on the
8 left?

9 A. These are file attachments, one of them looks like a
10 screenshot of a contract.

11 Q. When you spoke earlier about the A, B, C, D exhibits, is
12 this what you meant that there are attachments to some of the
13 messages?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. So let's take a look at -- if we can put up next to this
16 60A.

17 Mr. Santos, is what we see in 60A the attachment to
18 that first message on the left?

19 A. Correct.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's put up 60B instead of 60A,
21 please.

22 Q. 60B, is that what we see in the second attachment message
23 on the left?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And these were being sent from the Stormy Daniels account

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 to the Avenatti account?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR. SOBELMAN: You can take down 60B and focus back on
4 60.

5 Page 2, please.

6 Q. Let's read the message on the bottom.

7 A. "I never received this payment that was sent to you. Last
8 payment you gave me was number two via a check you deposited on
9 September 5."

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's go to the next page, please.

11 Enlarge the top half of the page.

12 A. "I didn't even know you had a trust account with my name on
13 it."

14 Q. "Let me find out if we even received this payment."

15 A. "Here is the wire proof. You also waited over 30 days to
16 give me payment number two. You have had payment three for
17 over five months. Last payment, which is number four, is not
18 due quite yet."

19 Then there is an attachment below that.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's put government 60C next to this.

21 Q. Mr. Santos, is this the attachment that's depicted on the
22 left?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So to be clear, the Daniels account sent this attachment to
25 the Avenatti account?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Direct

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Let's just take a look back at 60, page 3.

3 The last message says, "Let me find out what is going on."

4 Let's look at the last page of this document, Exhibit 60.

5 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take down 60C.

6 Q. What is this, Mr. Santos?

7 A. This is another attachment that was sent from the Stormy
8 Daniels contact.

9 Q. Can you please read the title that's listed here?

10 A. "I have retained Clark Brewster. Here is his contact
11 details. You can reach out to him directly."

12 Q. Aside from the WhatsApp messages between the defendant and
13 Ms. Daniels, did you review any other contents of the
14 defendant's iCloud account?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Why not?

17 A. I wasn't asked to do that.

18 Q. Is that your role?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Aside from preserving and processing digital evidence, did
21 you have any other role in the investigation of this case?

22 A. No.

23 MR. SOBELMAN: No further questions.

24 THE COURT: Cross-examination.

25 CROSS-EXAMINATION

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 BY MR. AVENATTI:

2 Q. Mr. Santos, good morning.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. Now, if I understand your testimony correctly, you did work
5 utilizing, is it Exhibit 401 and 402?

6 A. 401 was provided to me. They are the results from an Apple
7 production. So I didn't create those or touch those. That's
8 just what Apple gave us.

9 402 is the result of a report that I created using the
10 forensic tool, yes.

11 Q. OK. So you obtained 401 from Apple, and then you used your
12 forensic tool Cellebrite to make a forensic copy that you then
13 worked off of, and that forensic copy is 402. Do I have that
14 correctly?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who told you to do that?

17 A. The prosecution.

18 Q. Who exactly on the prosecution team?

19 A. I don't remember exactly, but I believe it might have been
20 Mr. Sobelman.

21 Q. OK. What exactly did he ask you to do?

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

23 THE COURT: Sustained.

24 Q. Mr. Santos, you made a Cellebrite report, or a Cellebrite
25 forensic image, and you saved that on 402, correct?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 A. So that's not exactly accurate. We use the phrase forensic
2 images when we are talking about extractions of devices. This
3 was a production from Apple, which is a little bit different,
4 because that part, what we would consider an acquisition, is
5 just data provided to us by Apple pursuant to a search warrant.
6 So they have already given that to us, and I just put that data
7 into the Cellebrite tool and it just makes it a little bit
8 easier to navigate through.

9 Q. OK. So the Cellebrite report is on Exhibit 402?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. OK. What does that Cellebrite report allow you to do? I
12 think you said something about searching?

13 A. We can search key words, we can filter out data, we can
14 sort data, things of that nature.

15 Q. Did you ever run the name Daniels in that Cellebrite
16 report?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Why not?

19 A. Excuse me. Correction. I searched for the name Stormy
20 Daniels when trying to search for the specific conversation.

21 Q. Well, my question is a little different. Did you only
22 search the Cellebrite report for the specific conversation that
23 you were told to search or did you search the Cellebrite report
24 for all conversations with Ms. Daniels?

25 A. I searched the report for other conversations with Stormy

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Daniels, and then I was specifically asked to focus on this
2 WhatsApp conversation.

3 Q. When you searched the report for other conversations with
4 Ms. Daniels, did you locate any?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What other conversations with Ms. Daniels did you locate?

7 A. I saw there was at least one other iMessage string of
8 conversations, and I saw other chats in which she was a
9 participant in which there were sort of like group chats.

10 Q. How long did it take you to find those when you searched
11 your Cellebrite report?

12 A. Once I had the report loaded in front of me it just took
13 seconds to find.

14 Q. And when did you do that, by the way?

15 A. Approximately, about two months ago, maybe.

16 Q. So you took the Cellebrite report, you searched for Ms.
17 Daniels's name, and you found multiple conversations, some
18 iMessage conversations, some WhatsApp conversations, some
19 conversations where it was just me and her and other
20 conversations where there was a third or a fourth party. Do I
21 have that correct?

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

23 A. Yes.

24 THE COURT: Sustained as to form.

25 Q. We will break it down.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 You searched the Cellebrite report for Ms. Daniels's name,
2 right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. You found the WhatsApp communication string that the
5 government asked you about, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You also found other WhatsApp communication strings between
8 me and Ms. Daniels and one or more third parties, right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You also found iMessage communications between me and Ms.
11 Daniels, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You also found iMessage communications or strings between
14 me and Ms. Daniels and one or more third parties, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In total, how many communication strings did you find
17 showing communications between or among me and Ms. Daniels?

18 A. From my recollection, there were two strings where it was
19 just you two, one which was this WhatsApp, one with the
20 iMessage, and then maybe ten where you were both parties to a
21 larger conversation, so group chats.

22 Q. And that took just seconds?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So in total, you found, if my math is correct, 12 different
25 communication strings where I was communicating with Ms.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Daniels or she was communicating with me?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But the government only asked you to take a look at one of
4 the 12?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was that one of the prosecutors here today?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Which one?

9 A. Mr. Sobelman.

10 Q. Then after Mr. Sobelman asked you to take a look at one of
11 the 12 communication chat strings, you then exported that
12 string, am I right about that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What did you do with the other 11?

15 A. They still remain in a larger report. So they weren't
16 altered or anything.

17 Q. But you didn't do anything with them before you testified
18 here today, did you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And the reason is because nobody asked you to?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. How did you go about then exporting the single
23 communication string out of the 12, how did you go about
24 exporting that one of 12 communication strings?

25 A. Well, once that string was identified and I was asked to

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 export it, Cellebrite has an option for exporting just that one
2 conversation string. So I just selected that option and it
3 created another report.

4 Q. And you could have exported all 12, but you just exported
5 the one, right?

6 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 Q. Sir, you had the ability in the software to export all 12,
9 but you only exported -- I am focusing on the export -- the
10 one?

11 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 I think we have covered this ground, Mr. Avenatti.

14 Q. How long did it take you to export the one string?

15 A. Two, three minutes, maybe.

16 Q. Did you look for any e-mails on the forensic copy?

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 A. No.

20 Q. Was that also because no one asked you to?

21 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Did you look for any further communications -- strike that.

25 Did you look for any other communications between or among

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Ms. Daniels and I in any other messaging apps, like Signal or
2 Telegram?

3 A. I only have the data that was provided to us by Apple.
4 It's not a one-to-one copy to whatever was on the original
5 phone, and those apps were not included in that backup.

6 Q. So there may have been communications on the original phone
7 that Apple did not have a copy of, am I right about that?

8 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection. Speculation.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 A. It's possible.

11 Q. Did you undertake any efforts to find out if any other
12 messages were on the phone?

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 Q. Did you ask anyone to attempt to find if there were any
16 other messages on the phone?

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 Q. At any point in time, did you -- strike that. I want to go
20 back to that Cellebrite report.

21 Did you ever search for the name Luke Janklow?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ever search for the name Sally Richardson?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did you ever search for the name Denver Nicks?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you ever search for the name Judy Regnier?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you ever search for the name Sean Macias?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So as you sit here today, you don't know one way or the
7 other as to whether conversations with those individuals
8 relating to this case are within the Cellebrite report, am I
9 correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Because no one ever asked you to look?

12 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 Q. Now, if we could please go to Exhibit 5.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: It's not in evidence, your Honor.

16 MR. AVENATTI: Just for the benefit of the witness.

17 THE COURT: Just for the witness.

18 Q. Mr. Santos, can you refresh my recollection of exactly what
19 Exhibit 5 is?

20 A. This is the complete conversation string between the
21 contact saved as Stormy Daniels and yourself or the owner of
22 this iPhone 10S.

23 Q. And you used this Exhibit 5 in preparing to testify here
24 today, correct?

25 A. Yes.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Q. And you relied on Exhibit 5 in preparing to testify here
2 today, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of the messages
5 between me and Ms. Daniels, according to the Cellebrite report
6 which came from the forensic copy, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, the defense offers
9 Government Exhibit 5. We have a redacted portion at DX AC,
10 Apple Charlie.

11 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection, your Honor. This document
12 is hundreds of pages and it includes 2500 messages, most of
13 which are irrelevant.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 Q. Within the communication string that we are looking at, the
16 one of five --

17 MR. AVENATTI: Can I just have it for the witness
18 again, Juliet.

19 Q. Now, this is one of the 12, correct?

20 A. Excuse me, one of 12?

21 Q. Yes. This is one of the 12 communication strings on the
22 Cellebrite report, this was the only one?

23 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

24 MR. AVENATTI: I am just orienting ourselves.

25 THE COURT: I think we have gotten that point down.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 So just ask your question.

2 Q. So in this one of 12, there are 2457 messages between me
3 and Ms. Daniels, correct?

4 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

5 THE COURT: You may answer if you know the answer. Is
6 that accurate?

7 A. Can you repeat the question?

8 Q. Sure. In the extraction report that you obtained or ran in
9 Cellebrite, in preparing to testify here today, there are 2,457
10 messages between me and Ms. Daniels. Am I correct about that?

11 A. As part of this WhatsApp conversation, yes.

12 Q. Now, if any WhatsApp messages were deleted before you
13 obtained the information from Apple, they would not be included
14 within this report, true?

15 A. I don't know the answer to that. We certainly have the
16 ability to recover deleted messages, but I don't know if
17 Apple -- if WhatsApp includes the database as part of the IOS
18 backup. So with this being an IOS backup, I don't know.

19 Q. Well, this information came from the cloud from Apple, not
20 from a cell phone, correct?

21 A. The original source is a cell phone that was backed up to
22 the cloud, to Apple's iCloud service, which was then turned
23 over to us. But I don't know which databases from that
24 original phone get backed up into the iCloud. So I am less
25 certain about the whole issue about deletions and recovering

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 deleted items.

2 Q. And you don't know if this came from the most recent
3 backup, do you?

4 A. I don't know the date that Apple preserved this backup, no.

5 Q. So it could have been the most recent backup or it could
6 have been an old backup, fair?

7 A. I don't know either way.

8 Q. Just so we are clear, so if there is a WhatsApp
9 communication between two people, and one of the people delete
10 one or more messages before the conversation is backed up to
11 the Cloud, those messages would not be in the Cloud, true?

12 A. True.

13 Q. And, therefore, those messages would not be on a copy, in
14 my hypothetical, that would be provided to you, true?

15 A. True.

16 Q. So you cannot tell the jury here today that all of the
17 WhatsApp communications between me and Ms. Daniels relating to
18 any topic are included within this Exhibit 5 and your
19 Cellebrite report, right?

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

21 THE COURT: Sustained.

22 Q. Mr. Santos, you would agree, would you not, that the 2,457
23 messages are not all the messages between me and Ms. Daniels,
24 correct?

25 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: Asked and answered. Sustained.

2 Mr. Avenatti, please.

3 Q. Mr. Santos, out of the 2,457 messages, you looked at
4 excerpts, I think was either your word or the word that was
5 used in the question. Am I right about that?

6 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 A. Yeah, we focused on certain excerpts.

9 Q. Who is "we"?

10 A. By "we," I mean the prosecution asked me to focus on
11 certain excerpts for the purpose of trial today.

12 Q. Who asked you to do that?

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 Mr. Avenatti, let's move on to the next line of
15 questioning, please.

16 Q. Mr. Santos, the prosecution team identified the excerpts,
17 correct?

18 THE COURT: Sustained. Next line of questioning,
19 please.

20 Q. Mr. Santos, out of the 2,457 messages, you did not focus on
21 all of them?

22 THE COURT: Sustained. Next line of questioning,
23 please.

24 Q. Mr. Santos, are there any text messages that were not
25 included in the excerpts that relate to this case, or do you

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 know?

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 A couple more questions, Mr. Avenatti.

4 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, could I have one moment?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 MR. AVENATTI: Thank you.

7 (Defense counsel confer)

8 Q. Mr. Santos, if I could direct your attention to GX 7.

9 MR. AVENATTI: For the witness only.

10 A. OK.

11 Q. Do you have that in front of you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. This is one of the text messages, one of the excerpts that
14 you focused on in preparing to testify here today, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you review all Exhibits 6 through 60 in preparing to
17 testify here today?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did that review refresh your recollection in order to
20 prepare you to testify here today?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, at this time the defense
23 offers Exhibit 7.

24 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Q. Can you please turn to Exhibit 8.

2 Exhibit 8 is one of the excerpts that you focused on,
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, defense offers Exhibit 8.

6 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 Mr. Avenatti, a couple more questions and then we will
9 wrap this up.

10 Q. Mr. Santos, I want to direct your attention to Exhibits 9,
11 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31 and 43, all
12 government exhibits.

13 Do you have a binder?

14 A. I don't.

15 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, could I approach?

16 THE COURT: You may.

17 Q. Mr. Santos, I will give you the numbers again, if that
18 would help.

19 A. Yes, please.

20 Q. Would you like a piece of paper, maybe, to write them down
21 on?

22 THE COURT: Just ask your question, Mr. Avenatti.

23 Q. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31,
24 and 43.

25 A. Got them.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Q. Those are all text messages between me and Ms. Daniels
2 within the same WhatsApp conversation string, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Those are all text messages that you reviewed in preparing
5 to testify here today and which refreshed your recollection
6 like the others, correct?

7 A. WhatsApp messages, yes.

8 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, at this time the defense
9 offers those text messages into evidence.

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

11 THE COURT: Give me a moment, please.

12 Counsel and Mr. Avenatti, can I see you at sidebar,
13 please.

14 (Continued on next page)

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M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 (At the sidebar)

2 THE COURT: What is your theory of admissibility here,
3 why they are not hearsay?

4 MR. AVENATTI: First of all, they are not offered for
5 the truth of the matter asserted. The witness testified that
6 he reviewed all of the text messages, 6 through 60.

7 THE COURT: I am not concerned about the foundation
8 authenticity. The question is what is the purpose for which
9 they are offered.

10 MR. AVENATTI: They are not offered for the truth of
11 the matter asserted.

12 THE COURT: What are they offered for?

13 MR. AVENATTI: To show the level of communication, the
14 back and forth between Ms. Daniels during this time period.

15 THE COURT: You have in the record that, just in this
16 chat alone, of which this is one of 12, there is something in
17 the nature of 2,475. That fact is before the jury. You don't
18 need the communication to establish that.

19 What is your next argument?

20 MR. AVENATTI: My next argument, your Honor, is that
21 the witness testified on the stand that these text messages
22 refreshed his recollection in preparing to testify here today.
23 And I believe that if the witness testifies that the witness
24 used the documents to prepare to testify, and that those
25 documents refreshed his recollection, I believe that I am

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 entitled to explore that and certainly publish them and get
2 them into evidence.

3 THE COURT: You're wrong about that. What is your
4 next argument?

5 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, these text messages are not
6 indistinguishable from the text messages that the government
7 was permitted to introduce over my objections.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, the government is entitled
9 to offer your statements because you're the defendant in this
10 matter and a party opponent. You are not allowed to offer your
11 statements for the truth because you are not a party opponent,
12 you are yourself.

13 So my question is -- I will give you one more
14 opportunity -- can you articulate a nonhearsay basis to admit
15 these statements of yours?

16 MR. AVENATTI: Yes, your Honor. Each of these
17 statements also go to my state of mind during the course of the
18 representation and during the course of the conduct that the
19 government -- the time period of the conduct and the conduct
20 that the government alleges substantiates their case. So each
21 of these text messages go directly to my state of mind and the
22 knowledge that I had during the time period at issue.

23 MR. SOBELMAN: There is still a relevance problem.
24 But even setting that aside, it's just a backdoor nonhearsay
25 exception. It doesn't exist. If they are not true and they

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 are not being asserted for the truth, it doesn't matter.

2 THE COURT: Hold on. If they are relevant to Mr.
3 Avenatti's state of mind, then that's a different question, and
4 if his state of mind at the time of those messages is relevant,
5 then I think that's a proper nonhearsay basis. So my question
6 is focused on that.

7 I think one problem we have is at least through GX 22
8 they are from March of 2018, or thereabouts, and as far as I
9 understand, the government's theory is that the scheme here
10 began in or about July, and in that sense I think his state of
11 mind in March is not relevant.

12 MR. SOBELMAN: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Focusing then on the texts from July or
14 thereabouts.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: I think we would have to go document by
16 document. We had no notice from the defendant that he intended
17 to offer these. We told him two days ago which ones we were
18 going to offer.

19 MR. AVENATTI: I would also add that these text
20 messages document the work, the quantity, and the quality of
21 the work that I did in connection --

22 THE COURT: Hold on.

23 Anyone have an objection if I tell the jurors, if they
24 want to use the restrooms, they can just walk through and use
25 the restrooms?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 MR. AVENATTI: No objection.

2 MR. SOBELMAN: No.

3 THE COURT: Just tell anyone, if they need the
4 restroom, this is a good opportunity.

5 MR. AVENATTI: So, your Honor, the text messages also
6 go to establish the amount of work that I did, the quality of
7 the work, the quantity of the work, all of these issues which
8 bear on whether I had a reasonable expectation -- my
9 expectation doesn't even have to be reasonable, frankly -- a
10 belief that I was entitled to the money. All of these text
11 messages go to that issue. They all go to my state of mind.
12 They all relate to the fee contract, the work that was done
13 pursuant to the fee agreement.

14 I have one last point that I would like to make. The
15 government was permitted to put into evidence on direct not
16 only my statements, but also the statements of Ms. Daniels.
17 Some of those may be contextual, they can make that argument,
18 some of them are not contextual. But the statements of Ms.
19 Daniels are not my admissions or my statements. So those
20 statements are hearsay. I made a hearsay objection. Your
21 Honor overruled the objection. I respect your decision.

22 THE COURT: That's a separate issue, and if you
23 request it, I will consider instructing the jury that her
24 statements from these texts are not to be considered for their
25 truth, but merely for her state of mind and for context.

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 Any objection to that?

2 MR. PODOLSKY: No. It should be clear that they are
3 to explain Mr. Avenatti's responses.

4 THE COURT: That's what context means.

5 I am going to go back on the bench and review the last
6 few messages and decide whether they are probative to Mr.
7 Avenatti's state of mind at any time that is relevant here, and
8 then I will give you my ruling.

9 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I just want to note for the
10 record, the same issues are present as it relates to Exhibit 5
11 and the defense's ability to put in the text messages that
12 comprise Exhibit 5. I attempted to put in the entirety of the
13 text communications by way of Exhibit 5, which the witness had
14 utilized in preparing to testify. The Court denied that.

15 THE COURT: I rejected that, and we are not going to
16 revisit that.

17 MR. AVENATTI: There are other text messages within
18 that that also go to my state of mind.

19 THE COURT: If you want to move a particular text
20 message and you have an argument as to why it is admissible, I
21 am happy to consider that. What you cannot do is try to
22 smuggle a ton of hearsay and a ton of irrelevant evidence into
23 the record by offering 2,475 messages. That's not happening.
24 To the extent that they are relevant, it is vastly outweighed
25 by the potential for unfair prejudice, including the issue of

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

misleading the jury and waste of time, and it's not happening.

Thank you.

(Continued on next page)

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 (In open court)

2 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, just give me a
3 minute or two to review a couple of things and then we will
4 proceed.

5 (Pause)

6 THE COURT: All right. The government's objections
7 are sustained with respect to all the exhibits except the
8 following: 22 and 31, and 43. So those three exhibits are
9 admitted. The remainder are not admitted.

10 Mr. Avenatti, you may proceed, unless please wrap this
11 up.

12 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, may I retrieve my binder?

13 THE COURT: You may.

14 Ladies and gentlemen, while Mr. Avenatti does that,
15 let me give you a couple of instructions.

16 First of all, in those three exhibits, 22, 31 and 43,
17 you may consider Mr. Avenatti's statements not for the truth of
18 anything asserted in the statement, but only for the fact that
19 the statement was sent and for what it says, if anything, about
20 his state of mind. So those are the only purposes for which
21 you may consider his statements in these text messages or these
22 messages.

23 More broadly, the messages that were admitted earlier
24 that the government had offered, just to clarify and make
25 clear, you may consider Mr. Avenatti's statements in those for

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 the truth -- that is to say, the limiting instruction does not
2 apply to those exhibits that are offered by the government.
3 With respect to any statements in those that are not Mr.
4 Avenatti's, that came from the account associated with the name
5 Stormy Daniels, you can consider those for context, for
6 understanding Mr. Avenatti's statements, and you can consider
7 them for the state of mind of the person who sent those
8 messages. So those messages you can't consider for the truth,
9 but you can consider for either of those two purposes. Mr.
10 Avenatti's statements in the exhibits that the government
11 offered you may consider for their truth.

12 I hope that is clear. I will give you further
13 instructions on that at the end of the case, but I just want to
14 make that clear at this stage.

15 So again, with those instructions, the exhibits 22, 31
16 and 43 are admitted.

17 (Government's Exhibits 22, 31 and 43 received in
18 evidence)

19 MR. AVENATTI: Thank you, your Honor.

20 Could we have Exhibit 22 for the jury, please.

21 BY MR. AVENATTI:

22 Q. Mr. Santos, do you have that?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. I want to have a read-along with you like you did with the
25 government moments ago. So you are going to read Ms. Daniels's

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 part, and I am going to read my part. Fair?

2 A. OK.

3 Q. Go ahead.

4 Q. I will start.

5 "Just tried you. The publisher sees a big potential
6 for the audio so now wants to find two dates before August 15
7 (instead of August 30) for you to record."

8 A. I don't have the next page.

9 MR. AVENATTI: Can I have the next page, please.

10 A. "Getting luggage. Call you when get to hotel. Totally
11 impossible to dates before August 15. Unless I manage to get
12 out of Big Brother. It's giving me anxiety and I can't talk on
13 the phone except one hour the whole week. As of now I can't do
14 the audio till August 29."

15 Q. "OK. I will handle with the publisher. Don't worry. I
16 got it."

17 MR. AVENATTI: Please turn to, or can we please have
18 Exhibit 31 for the witness and the jury.

19 A. "I don't give a shit anymore. You did same with Kimmel.
20 You talked mad shit about him to me and next thing I know you
21 turn up at Disney with him and he thinks you love him. Then
22 I'm surprised with news that you are going to the show with me.
23 I don't care if you do it or not."

24 THE COURT: I think it was going on the show with me,
25 not to the show. Is that correct?

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 THE WITNESS: Sorry. You're correct.

2 MR. AVENATTI: Next page, please.

3 Q. "I was never going on the show with you! I have no idea
4 what you are talking about. I never discussed that with them
5 or him. I saw him and his producer at Disney and it was a live
6 fest about how great you are. I never speak badly about you,
7 Stormy, ever. Why would I go on with you? That's your gig. I
8 was never going on. Never discussed it, ever."

9 A. "It's about you taking stuff out of my book and thinking I
10 will buy the excuse of it being client privilege. It's not. I
11 checked the bar info myself. It's about conversations going on
12 behind my back. FYI Luke still has not called me. Not that I
13 even want to speak to him at this point. I hope he fucking
14 chokes on the money he makes off of me. And I know you never
15 speak poorly of me. I'm sure of that, if for no other reason
16 then you would look bad too."

17 Q. "Please stop lashing out at me. I don't speak badly about
18 you because I have your back and I am your friend and I care
19 about you. I don't know what you are upset about being deleted
20 from your book. I am happy to discuss this with you. I don't
21 know what you reviewed, but I'm very familiar with the
22 attorney-client privilege and have litigated those issues many,
23 many times. I know how it works and how it plays out. 95
24 percent of attorneys would advise their client to not even do a
25 book until the case was concluded. Also, the publisher made

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Cross

1 some of the changes for legal reasons. But I am not sure what
2 sections you are upset about so I can't comment on who did what
3 until I know."

4 "BTW, I constantly build you up in the press, on TV, and on
5 social media. I am infusive about you, what you stand for and
6 how terrific and heroic you are. People always comment on it
7 at the highest levels. I go out of my way to compliment you
8 and stand up for you. I hope you see that because it is
9 sincere."

10 A. "I do. And same here. That is not my issue."

11 Q. "OK. I would like to better understand your issue. I
12 think that you think that a lot more stuff is going on 'behind
13 your back' than really is. But I have heard you loud and clear
14 the last few days and will ensure that you are informed and in
15 control. I apologize if I didn't do my part. I really want
16 you happy and will do what I can to make that a reality."

17 MR. AVENATTI: If you could please turn to 43.

18 Q. "Can you call me?"

19 "Stormy, the campaign is basically a continuation of the
20 prior campaign. I was simply trying to jump start the efforts
21 again. Nothing more, nothing less. I thought in light of
22 Efran, etc. you could use the money. I didn't think it was a
23 big deal. No different than the prior updates. I'm sorry."

24 "You can't send that statement, Stormy. I don't deserve
25 that, please."

M1R8AVE2

Santos - Redirect

1 "I understand you are upset about Keith, et al., but I have
2 been your advocate and friend. I don't know why you would go
3 after me in the press like this. That's not good or fair."

4 Mr. Santos, did I read that correctly?

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. AVENATTI: Nothing further.

7 THE COURT: Redirect.

8 MR. SOBELMAN: Yes, your Honor.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

11 MR. SOBELMAN: If we could please take a look at
12 Government Exhibit 802 on one side and 22 on the other.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Sobelman, if you could move the mic a
14 little closer.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: Sorry. Is this better?

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Thank you.

18 (Continued on next page)

MlrWave3

Santos - Redirect

1 MR. SOBELMAN: Go to page 3 of 802 on the left and
2 page 2 of 22 on the right.

3 Q. Mr. Santos, do you see Government Exhibit 802, page 3, on
4 the side of your screen?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And do you see there's a column that says "payment"?

7 MR. AVENATTI: Outside the scope, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Sorry. Give me a moment.

9 Overruled.

10 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

11 Q. Do you see the column that says "payment"?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you see where it says "payment to" in the middle row?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What are the dates on those two payments in the date
16 column?

17 A. August 1, 2018, and August 3, 2018.

18 Q. Do you recall the defendant asking you to read Government
19 Exhibit 22 with you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And when were those messages sent?

22 A. August 1, 2018.

23 Q. Did any of those messages mention Ms. Daniels's book
24 advance payments?

25 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Best evidence, your Honor.

MlrWave3

Santos - Redirect

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's take a look, leave 802 up and put
3 up Government Exhibit 31.

4 Q. Mr. Santos, do you recall the defendant asking you to read
5 from Government Exhibit 31?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And what's the date on those messages?

8 A. September 20, 2018.

9 Q. OK. And on the left here, Government Exhibit 802, do you
10 see where it says "payment 3"?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What's the date next to that?

13 A. September 17, 2018. Of.

14 Q. And in Government Exhibit 31, how many messages were about
15 Ms. Daniels's book advance payments?

16 MR. AVENATTI: Same objection, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Sustained.

18 You'll have an opportunity to make closing arguments
19 later.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Take a look at Government Exhibit 43,
21 please. If we can put 802, page 3, up next to it.

22 Q. During your cross-examination, Mr. Avenatti read these
23 messages, is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what's the date on those?

MlrWave3

Santos - Redirect

1 A. November 28, 2018.

2 MR. SOBELMAN: Sorry. Can we just take a look at 802,
3 page 3.

4 Q. And what's the date on the third payment?

5 A. September 17, 2018.

6 MR. SOBELMAN: OK. Just a few more questions. You
7 can take down the exhibits.

8 Q. Mr. Santos, do you recall being asked questions about
9 searches you did or did not run in the defendant's iCloud
10 account?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And as part of your responsibility in processing the
13 forensic evidence, did you provide a copy of the iCloud account
14 to the investigative team?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you have any idea what searches the investigative team
17 ran in that iCloud account?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And you provided that to the investigative team more than
20 two years ago, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So there would have been plenty of time for the
23 investigative team to conduct any searches that they thought
24 were appropriate, right?

25 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Argumentative.

MlrWave3

Santos - Redirect

1 Speculative.

2 THE COURT: Sustained as to form.

3 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

4 Q. Mr. Santos, aside from processing forensic evidence, did
5 you have any other role in the investigation of this case?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you recall being asked some questions on
8 cross-examination about whether messages could have been
9 deleted?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Whose account did the messages we looked at come from?

12 A. The iCloud account of the phone by Mr. Avenatti.

13 Q. And those messages were between him and Ms. Daniels,
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If Ms. Daniels had deleted a message on her phone, would
17 that have had any effect on the version in Mr. Avenatti's
18 iCloud account?

19 MR. AVENATTI: Speculation.

20 THE COURT: I'll allow it.

21 A. No.

22 Q. So the only way a message could have been deleted in the
23 version we looked at is if the defendant deleted it, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 MR. SOBELMAN: No further questions.

MlrWave3

Santos - Recross

1 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I have four questions on
2 recross.

3 THE COURT: I will give you four and only four.

4 MR. AVENATTI: Thank you, your Honor.

5 Could I have Government Exhibit 107, please.

6 Your Honor, one moment?

7 For the record, your Honor, it's 802, page 3. I was
8 mistaken.

9 RECROSS EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. AVENATTI:

11 Q. Mr. Santos, I want to direct your attention to this date
12 column. Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At any point in time were you asked to look for all
15 messages with Ms. Daniels occurring on or about any of these
16 dates?

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 BY MR. AVENATTI:

20 Q. Mr. Santos, you don't know if there were other WhatsApp
21 messages, iMessages, emails, or any other communications
22 between me and Ms. Daniels around these dates because you never
23 looked for them, isn't that true?

24 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 You have one more question, Mr. Avenatti.

2 BY MR. AVENATTI:

3 Q. Were there any iMessages sent between me and Ms. Daniels on
4 any of these dates, if you know?

5 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

6 THE COURT: Sustained.

7 Thank you.

8 Mr. Santos, you may put your mask back on and step
9 down. You're excused at this time.

10 (Witness excused)

11 THE COURT: Next witness, please.

12 MR. SOBELMAN: The government calls Stephanie
13 Clifford, also known as Stormy Daniels.

14 STEPHANIE CLIFFORD,

15 called as a witness by the government,

16 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

17 THE COURT: You may proceed, Mr. Sobelman.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

20 Q. Good morning.

21 Can you see me? Scoot over maybe a little. The setup is
22 not ideal.

23 Good morning.

24 A. Good morning.

25 Q. What is your legal name?

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Stephanie Clifford.

2 Q. What, if any, other name do you prefer to use?

3 A. Stormy Daniels.

4 Q. Why do you use the name Stormy Daniels?

5 A. That's my stage name.

6 Q. Do you use the name Stormy Daniels in both your personal
7 and professional lives?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you prefer to be called Ms. Daniels today in court?

10 A. Yes, please.

11 Q. Ms. Daniels, are you familiar with an individual named
12 Michael Avenatti?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Have you met him in person?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you please take a look around the courtroom, and if you
17 see Michael Avenatti, please identify where he is and an item
18 of clothing he is wearing?

19 A. He's the gentleman standing up --

20 THE COURT: Indicating Mr. Avenatti.

21 A. -- in the blue shirt.

22 THE COURT: Indicating Mr. Avenatti.

23 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

24 Q. Ms. Daniels, generally how do you know the defendant?

25 A. He was my attorney.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Is he still your attorney today?

2 A. No, he is not.

3 Q. Approximately when did he stop being your attorney?

4 A. February 2019.

5 Q. What is your understanding of why he stopped being your
6 lawyer?

7 A. Because I hired a new attorney because he stole from me and
8 lied to me.

9 Q. In particular, what did you believe he had lied to you
10 about?

11 A. Payments from the publisher about my book.

12 Q. I'm going to ask you some more questions about that later,
13 but first, let's take a step back.

14 Where do you live?

15 A. New Orleans, Louisiana.

16 Q. What do you currently do for work?

17 A. I am a writer, director, actress, currently in production
18 of a television show about paranormal activity.

19 Q. Approximately when did you first meet the defendant?

20 A. February of 2018.

21 Q. At that time what did you do for work?

22 A. All of the above, actress, model, director, writer. I was
23 also a dancer and worked in adult films.

24 Q. How did you come to meet the defendant?

25 A. He was introduced to me or recommended to me from another

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 attorney.

2 Q. Who was that attorney?

3 A. His name was Sean.

4 Q. Do you recall his last name?

5 A. I don't.

6 Q. Why were you looking for an attorney at that time?

7 A. Because I was trying to find out the -- my legal rights and
8 how to get out of a nondisclosure deal.

9 Q. What is a nondisclosure --

10 A. It was --

11 Q. -- deal or agreement?

12 A. -- a contract about not talking about certain things.

13 Q. And who did you have that agreement with?

14 A. Donald Trump.

15 Q. Where did you first meet the defendant?

16 A. Beverly Hills.

17 Q. Where specifically in Beverly Hills?

18 A. The Waldorf Astoria hotel.

19 Q. Who chose that location to meet?

20 A. It was either Michael or Sean. It wasn't me.

21 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can we please show the
22 witness what's been marked for identification as Government
23 Exhibit 603.

24 Q. Ms. Clifford, can you see the exhibit?

25 MR. SOBELMAN: We seem to be having a technical issue,

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 your Honor. Give me one moment.

2 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. You have it now.

3 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recognize what is shown in this
4 photograph?

5 A. Where am I looking?

6 Q. Is it appearing on the screen in front of you?

7 A. No.

8 THE COURT: We'll --

9 THE WITNESS: It's black.

10 THE COURT: Hang on one second, Ms. Daniels. You
11 prefer to be called Ms. Daniels.

12 THE WITNESS: Uh-huh.

13 THE COURT: Ms. Daniels, sorry to inconvenience you.
14 Do you mind putting on your mask and just stepping down from
15 the witness box for one moment --

16 THE WITNESS: Sure.

17 THE COURT: -- so our AV staff can take a look and see
18 what the problem is? Thank you.

19 Mr. Sobelman, do we have a hard copy of this exhibit,
20 perhaps? If we can't figure this out now, maybe we can keep
21 going and get to the break and figure it out.

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. We'll do this at 11:30 and try
24 to fix the problem. Thank you.

25 All right. Now that you're back in the box, you may

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 remove your mask.

2 Sorry for the delay.

3 Mr. Sobelman, go ahead.

4 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

5 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please turn in the binder I just
6 handed you to the tab marked 603?

7 A. Would that be GX --

8 Q. Yes, Ms. Daniels. GX-603. Thank you.

9 A. OK.

10 Q. Do you recognize what's shown in this photograph?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is it?

13 A. It is the lobby/bar area of the Waldorf Astoria in Beverly
14 Hills.

15 Q. That's where you met the defendant for the first time?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: The government offers Government
18 Exhibit 603.

19 THE COURT: Any objection?

20 MR. AVENATTI: No objection.

21 THE COURT: Admitted.

22 (Government Exhibit 603 received in evidence)

23 MR. SOBELMAN: Please display it for the jury.

24 THE COURT: Folks, can you give me a thumbs up if
25 you're able to see it?

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 It appears things are working. Thank you.

2 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

3 Q. Ms. Daniels, who was there for your first meeting with the
4 defendant?

5 A. It was myself, Michael, and my then assistant, Michaela.

6 Q. And generally, what did you discuss with the defendant in
7 that very first meeting?

8 A. We got to know each other, and then he asked me about the
9 nondisclosure agreement and the history with Donald Trump, the
10 legalities of that, and whether or not he would consider taking
11 the case.

12 Q. During that first meeting, what, if anything, did you and
13 the defendant discuss regarding payment for him to represent
14 you?

15 A. I explained to him that I didn't have a large deposit or
16 retainer to spend and that I was concerned about finding
17 someone that I could afford.

18 Q. Why did you tell him that you were concerned about finding
19 someone you could afford?

20 A. Because I didn't have a lot of money.

21 Q. How, if at all, did the defendant respond at that meeting
22 when you told him that you were concerned about affording an
23 attorney?

24 A. He said he'd -- we could work it out; he'd think about it.

25 Q. How did that meeting end?

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Pleasantly, with us saying good night and he would be in
2 touch.

3 Q. When did you next see the defendant?

4 A. Less than 24 hours later.

5 Q. Where did you meet him?

6 A. A restaurant, for lunch, in Beverly -- I mean Los Angeles.

7 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take this exhibit down.

8 Q. Who was there for that second meeting with the defendant?

9 A. It was the same three of us, myself, Michael and Michaela.

10 Q. Generally, what did you discuss with the defendant in that
11 second meeting?

12 A. More of the same, but with more attention to the cost of
13 representation and what that would entail.

14 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say during that
15 meeting about how much you would pay him to be your attorney?

16 A. He said it would be a hundred dollars.

17 Q. What, if anything, did he say about whether he would
18 receive other payments later in addition to the \$100?

19 A. He said he was going to set up a legal defense fund that
20 was crowd funded and that he would win -- he would take a lot
21 of money from the winnings against Donald Trump.

22 Q. At that meeting, was there any mention of a book deal?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say at that meeting
25 about a book deal?

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 A. A book -- that when it came to a book deal or a movie or a
2 documentary, we would discuss it later.

3 Q. What, if any, documents did the defendant bring to that
4 meeting?

5 A. A retainer.

6 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please show in
7 evidence what's in evidence as Government Exhibit 3 and focus
8 on the top half of the page.

9 Q. Ms. Daniels, if you could turn to GX-3 in the binder in
10 front of you.

11 Do you have it in front of you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recognize this document?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is it?

16 A. It is the retainer that Michael gave me.

17 Q. At the meeting we were just talking about?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you sign this agreement?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. And what is your understanding of who wrote this agreement?

22 A. Michael.

23 Q. What, if any, edits did you make to this agreement before
24 signing it?

25 A. None.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Can you please read the name of the law firm at the top of
2 the agreement?

3 A. Eagan Avenatti, LLP.

4 Q. Aside from the defendant, do you recall dealing with any
5 other lawyers at his firm?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What's the date on this agreement?

8 A. February 27, 2018.

9 Q. What's the title on the agreement?

10 A. Attorney-client fee contract.

11 Q. Can you please read the first paragraph?

12 A. The top or No. 1?

13 Q. The first paragraph that starts this attorney-client fee
14 contract.

15 A. OK. "This attorney fee contract (this 'agreement') is the
16 written fee contract that California law requires lawyers to
17 have with their client. It is between Eagan Avenatti, LLP,
18 Avenatti & Associates, APC, and Michael J. Avenatti, Esq.,
19 (collectively, the 'attorney') on one hand, and Stephanie
20 Clifford a/k/a Stormy Daniels (collectively the 'clients' and
21 each a 'client') on the other."

22 Q. Who is Stephanie Clifford, a/k/a Stormy Daniels?

23 A. Me.

24 Q. What does a/k/a mean?

25 A. Otherwise known -- also known as.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Let's take a look at the paragraph that says "2, scope of
2 services."

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Could you please read the first sentence that starts
5 "clients are hiring"?

6 A. Yes. "Clients are hiring attorney to represent clients in
7 connection with (a)" --

8 THE COURT: Slow down, please.

9 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

10 THE COURT: Thanks.

11 A. "With (a) providing clients with counsel and advice
12 relating to clients' prior negotiation and execution of various
13 alleged agreements concerning clients' prior relationship with
14 Donald Trump; (b) providing clients with counsel and advice
15 concerning various media appearances; and (c) assisting clients
16 with voiding various alleged" service -- I'm sorry, "alleged
17 agreements concerning clients' prior relationship with Donald
18 Trump. Attorney will provide those legal services reasonably
19 required to represent clients and take reasonable steps to
20 inform clients of progress and to timely respond to clients'
21 inquiries."

22 Q. You can stop there. Thank you.

23 If we can go down to the paragraph entitled "4, legal fees,
24 costs and billing practices."

25 Ms. Daniels, could you please read the first sentence that

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 starts "for legal services rendered"?

2 A. "For legal services rendered, attorney will receive (a) a
3 one-time payment of \$100; and (b) attorney's standard hourly
4 fees and out-of-pocket costs if a legal defense fund is
5 established to benefit clients and has sufficient funds to pay
6 such fees and costs."

7 Q. Let's stop there for a moment.

8 Did you make the \$100 one-time payment?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. When did you make that payment?

11 A. Right then, at lunch.

12 Q. The lunch we were talking about where you signed this
13 agreement?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. How did you make that payment?

16 A. A hundred in cash.

17 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant do with that \$100
18 payment?

19 A. He paid for our lunch.

20 Q. Do you see subsection (b), which references a legal defense
21 fund?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What is your understanding of what a legal defense fund is?

24 A. A crowd funding where people could donate to help with
25 legal services.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Was a legal defense fund ever established for you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Who set up the legal defense fund?

4 A. Michael.

5 Q. How was it set up?

6 A. Online.

7 Q. Approximately how much was raised for your legal defense
8 fund?

9 A. Approximately 650,000.

10 Q. What is your understanding of who controlled those funds?

11 A. Michael.

12 Q. Take a look at the second sentence that starts, "In
13 addition, in the event." Please read that.

14 A. "In addition, in the event attorney assists clients in
15 finalizing any book or media opportunity that results in
16 clients being paid, attorney and client agree that attorney
17 shall be entitled to a reasonable percentage to be agreed upon
18 between clients and attorney."

19 Q. Ms. Daniels, at any point, did you and the defendant later
20 agree that the defendant would actually get any portion of
21 money paid for a book or media opportunity?

22 A. No.

23 Q. At any point did you and the defendant have any written
24 agreement aside from the one we're looking at right now?

25 A. No.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please display
2 the second page of this exhibit and enlarge paragraph 10.

3 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please read the sentence after
4 "conclusion of services"?

5 A. "After attorney's services conclude, attorney will, upon
6 clients' request, deliver clients' entire file to clients,
7 along with any client funds or property in attorney's
8 possession."

9 Q. Ms. Daniels, at any time after the defendant was no longer
10 your attorney, did he provide you with any funds that he had
11 held for you?

12 A. No.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please display
14 the signatures at the bottom of the page.

15 Q. Ms. Daniels, aside from this document, are you familiar
16 with what the defendant's signature looks like?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How are you familiar with what the defendant's signature
19 looks like?

20 A. I've seen him sign things, like bar tabs and restaurant
21 receipts.

22 Q. Under attorney, whose signature appears?

23 A. Mine.

24 Q. Take another look. Under attorney --

25 A. Oh, I'm sorry.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. -- whose signature appears?

2 A. Michael Avenatti.

3 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Leading.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

6 Q. Just to be clear, under attorney, whose signature appears?

7 A. Michael.

8 Q. And under clients, whose signature appears?

9 A. That's mine.

10 Q. Did you, in fact, sign this agreement?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take this down.

13 THE COURT: All right. With that, we're going to take
14 our lunch break.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, you know the instructions, but
16 let me repeat them just to be clear.

17 No. 1, please keep an open mind. You have not heard
18 all the evidence in the case, let alone the parties' closing
19 arguments. No. 2, please do not discuss the case with each
20 other, with anyone. Please don't do any research about the
21 case or investigate it in any way, shape, or form.

22 And with that, have a pleasant lunch. Let's be ready
23 to go, why don't you start getting ready at 12:10 so that we
24 can resume at 12:15.

25 With that, you are excused. Thank you.

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

THE WITNESS: What do I do with this?

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: You may be seated.

3 Ms. Daniels, you can leave that right there. You may
4 step down. Please be --

5 Well, counsel, if there's nothing for us to discuss
6 for which Ms. Daniels needs to be excluded, please have her
7 back in here at 12:10, ready to continue at 12:15.

8 With that, you're excused, Ms. Daniels. You may step
9 out of the courtroom.

10 Does the government have anything we need to discuss?

11 MR. SOBELMAN: No, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, anything you need to
13 discuss?

14 MR. AVENATTI: No, sir Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Just give me one moment to let
16 Ms. Daniels out.

17 (Witness not present)

18 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Avenatti, under the order
19 previously entered in this case, I think you were required, by
20 5 p.m. the day before, to provide notice to the government of
21 any exhibits that you intend to offer. I take it that did not
22 happen with respect to the messages that you offered through
23 Mr. Santos today, which required a lengthy sidebar and my
24 consideration of the rule. The order was intended to avoid
25 that and avoid the jury having to sit there during that kind of

MlrWave3

Clifford - Direct

1 colloquy and my review. So I would urge you -- not urge you,
2 require you to comply with that, and to the extent you
3 anticipate offering exhibits through Ms. Daniels or otherwise,
4 share that with the government in advance so I have an
5 opportunity to review them if I need to do that. All right?

6 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I will do that.

7 Just to explain to the Court, I understood they were
8 moving all of 6 through 60 in, because that was my
9 understanding. If that understanding was false, I apologize to
10 the Court. But that's why I did not point to those other
11 exhibits, but I'll ensure that I follow the Court's directives,
12 as all directives.

13 THE COURT: All right. I don't need to hear whether
14 that was true or not true. Just going forward, let's do
15 better.

16 Thank you very much. Please back here no later than
17 12:10. As stated, unless there's something that we need to
18 discuss for which Ms. Daniels should not be present, please
19 have her back as well.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 (Luncheon recess)
23
24
25

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:10 p.m.

(Jury not present)

THE COURT: You may be seated.

Anything we need to discuss?

MR. SOBELMAN: Nothing from the government.

THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, anything?

MR. AVENATTI: Nothing, your Honor.

THE COURT: Let's get Ms. Daniels and we will get the jury.

Ms. Daniels, just have a seat. You can remove your mask and we will wait for the jury to return.

(Jury present)

THE COURT: You may be seated.

Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen. I hope you had an enjoyable break.

We will resume with the direct testimony of Ms. Daniels.

Ms. Daniels, I remind you that you remain under oath.

Also, I think one of you left your notebook here before the break. My staff secured it and has it for you. But just a reminder, if you can take that to the jury room and then we will secure it there if you're not in there.

With that, we will continue.

Mr. Sobelman, you may proceed.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

2 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Daniels.

3 A. Good afternoon.

4 Q. Ms. Daniels, have you ever authored a book?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the name of that book?

7 A. Full Disclosure.

8 Q. Who published your book?

9 A. St. Martin's Press.

10 Q. Was a contract associated with the publication of that
11 book?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
14 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 102 and focus on the top
15 half of the page.

16 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recognize this?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is it?

19 A. The author contract from my publisher.

20 Q. Can you please read the title at the top of the page?

21 A. "St. Martin's Press, Author Contract."

22 Q. What is the date in the first paragraph?

23 A. April 3, 2018.

24 Q. Who is the contract between?

25 A. Myself, Stephanie Clifford and St. Martin's Press.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant tell you about his
2 role in negotiating this contract?

3 A. That he worked with the literary agent to get me a good
4 contract.

5 Q. Let's go to the second page of this document.

6 Can you please read the first paragraph underneath
7 "advance" and then after the number 2?

8 A. "The publisher will pay the author, or the author's duly
9 authorized representative, as an advance against the author's
10 earnings from all sources under this agreement, the sum of
11 \$800,000 (the Author Advance) payable as follows:"

12 Q. Just generally, what is set forth underneath that
13 paragraph?

14 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 A. How much the publisher was going to pay me and when those
17 payments would be sent to me.

18 Q. Can you please read the first paragraph that starts "250"?

19 A. "\$250,000 upon signing of this agreement."

20 Q. Is that the first payment you were due to receive?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. Can you please read the second paragraph that starts "175"?

23 A. "\$175,000 upon the author's delivery and the publisher's
24 acceptance of the complete and final manuscript of the work."

25 Q. Is your understanding that the term "author" here means

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that "publisher" is St. Martin's Press?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Does this paragraph refer to the second payment you were to
6 receive?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Please read the third paragraph.

9 A. "\$175,000 upon the publication of the publisher's initial
10 edition of the work, but in no event later than six months from
11 the author's delivery and the publisher's acceptance of the
12 complete and final manuscript of the work, provided the author
13 has satisfactorily completed the three weeks' publicity
14 requirement and complied with all media restrictions pursuant
15 to paragraph 13(b)."

16 Q. Ms. Daniels, what does "the work" refer to here?

17 A. The book.

18 Q. The book that you authored?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you understand this paragraph relates to the third
21 payment you were to receive?

22 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

23 THE COURT: Sustained.

24 A. Yes.

25 THE COURT: Hold on. Ms. Daniels, if I sustain an

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 objection, then don't answer the question. Thank you.

2 MR. AVENATTI: Move to strike.

3 THE COURT: The jury will disregard the last answer.

4 Mr. Sobelman, you can ask another question.

5 Q. How many payments did you understand you were to receive
6 under this book contract?

7 A. Four.

8 Q. And the paragraph you just read, what number of those four
9 payments did you understand that was?

10 A. Three out of four.

11 Q. Can you please read the last paragraph on this page?

12 A. "\$200,000 upon the later of six months from the publication
13 of the publisher's initial edition of the work, or the author's
14 satisfactory completion of the three weeks' publicity
15 requirement and compliance with all media restrictions pursuant
16 to paragraph 13(b), but in no event later than 12 months from
17 the author's delivery and the publisher's acceptance of the
18 complete and final manuscript of the work, provided the author
19 has satisfactorily completed the three weeks' publicity
20 requirement and complied with all media restrictions pursuant
21 to paragraph 13(b)."

22 Q. Of the four payments that you were to receive under this
23 agreement, what number payment does this paragraph refer to?

24 A. Number four.

25 MR. SOBELMAN: Can we just zoom out to show the whole

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

document.

Q. Ms. Daniels, did you review the entire contract in preparation for your testimony today?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you point us to the part or tell us what page there is anything referencing the defendant getting any portion of your book advance payments?

A. There is none.

MR. SOBELMAN: Go to page 35, which is the last page of the document.

Q. Ms. Daniels, whose signature appears under author?

A. Mine does.

Q. Did you in fact sign this contract?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. On what date did you sign this contract?

A. April 11, 2018.

Q. At any time before you signed this contract, what, if anything, did the defendant tell you about taking some of your book advance payments for himself?

A. Nothing.

Q. Do you recall where you were when you signed this contract?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Where were you?

A. I was in California, Sun Valley, California.

Q. What, if anything, did you do -- how did this document come

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 to be, what did you do after you signed the contract?

2 A. Got really excited with my friends, and I texted Michael or
3 contacted Michael, I sent him a picture of it.

4 Q. Just to be clear, you had a hard copy of the document,
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 Q. Then you signed it?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. What did you do after you signed it?

12 A. I took a picture of it.

13 Q. What did you do with that picture?

14 A. I text it to Michael.

15 Q. Why did you text it to the defendant?

16 A. I didn't have access to a scanner or printer at that very
17 moment and he asked me for it.

18 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can we please display what
19 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 16 and 16A next to each
20 other.

21 Q. Ms. Daniels, what does Government Exhibit 16 show, just
22 generally?

23 A. A text message.

24 Q. Who sent this text message?

25 A. I did.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Who did you send it to?

2 A. To Michael.

3 Q. What type of application did you use to send this text
4 message?

5 A. The messaging app WhatsApp.

6 Q. What did you send in this message?

7 A. The photo of the last page of my book contract.

8 Q. Is that the same document that's up as 16A?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. SOBELMAN: One moment.

11 Q. How soon after receiving the contract did you send the
12 signed signature page to the defendant?

13 A. The same day.

14 Q. Why did you send -- just to be clear, why did you send it
15 to the defendant?

16 A. Because he asked me to.

17 Q. Why did you not ask the defendant to sign your name for
18 you?

19 A. Because I can sign my own name. I sign all my own
20 contracts.

21 Q. Was it difficult for you to sign the document, take a
22 photograph of it, and send it to the defendant?

23 A. Not at all.

24 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take down the document now.

25 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please remind us, under your contract

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 with St. Martin's Press, when were you to receive the first
2 payment?

3 A. The day I signed the contract.

4 Q. What, if any, instructions did you give the defendant about
5 where your book payments should be sent at the time the first
6 payment was to be made?

7 A. I asked that it be wired directly into my business checking
8 account.

9 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
10 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 202.

11 Q. Ms. Daniels, who is this e-mail from?

12 A. From Michael Avenatti.

13 Q. Who is it sent to?

14 A. Luke Janklow.

15 Q. What date was it sent?

16 A. April 11, 2018.

17 Q. Is that the same day you signed the book contract?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. What is the subject line of this e-mail?

20 A. Wire instructions.

21 Q. Do you recognize the information in the body of this
22 e-mail?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. What is listed here?

25 A. My banking account information.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Is that the account you told the defendant to have your
2 book payments sent to?

3 A. Yes, it is.

4 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
5 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 301B.

6 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recognize this?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is it?

9 A. One of my bank statements.

10 Q. What time period is it for?

11 A. The month of April 2018.

12 Q. What is Stormy Entertainment, Inc.?

13 A. That is myself; it is the name of my company.

14 Q. Let's go to the third page of this document.

15 Ms. Daniels, looking at the line under deposits and other
16 credits, April 11, 2018, what is your understanding of what is
17 reflected here?

18 A. This reflects payment number one of my book advance minus
19 the literary agent's fee.

20 Q. When did you actually learn of this payment?

21 A. The same day, pretty instantly.

22 Q. How did you learn of this payment?

23 A. A notification on my mobile app, on my phone.

24 Q. Do you recall where you were when you got that
25 notification?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Yes, I do, very clearly.

2 Q. Where were you?

3 A. I was sitting in the car at a gas station in Sun Valley,
4 California.

5 Q. Were you with anyone?

6 A. Yes. I was with my bodyguard Travis.

7 Q. How did you react when you got that notification?

8 A. I screamed really loud and scared him.

9 Q. Why did you scream?

10 A. Because I never had a payment for that much, never saw that
11 much money in my account, and it kind of solidified that I was
12 a real author, something I had been working for for ten years.

13 Q. You had been working on writing a book for ten years?

14 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

15 A. Yes.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, let's now display what is
18 in evidence as Government Exhibit 17.

19 Q. Ms. Daniels, just generally, what does this document show?

20 A. Text messages.

21 Q. Who are these text messages between?

22 A. From me to Michael Avenatti.

23 Q. Who sent the message in the blue bubble?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Who sent the message in the green bubble?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. He did.

2 Q. Can you read the message in the blue bubble, please.

3 A. "Got the wire. I can't feel my face."

4 Q. I am going to ask you about that. But before I do, what is
5 the date of these messages?

6 A. April 11, 2018.

7 Q. That's the same day we were just talking about when you got
8 the wire transfer?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What did you mean by "got the wire"?

11 A. That I received my first payment.

12 Q. What did you mean by "I can't feel my face"?

13 A. That my face was numb from smiling so much.

14 Q. The defendant responded, "Congrats. We make a good team.
15 Enjoy. Smiley face." Do you see that?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. On that same day, April 11, 2018, did you also speak to the
18 defendant about the wire transfer?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you speak to the defendant?

21 A. On the phone.

22 Q. Was that a regular phone call or a call over WhatsApp or
23 something else?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 Q. What, if any, method do you usually use to speak to the

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 defendant by phone?

2 A. It was usually WhatsApp, but sometimes we did use cell
3 phone.

4 Q. Where were you during that phone conversation?

5 A. I was in the house I rented a room in, in Sun Valley,
6 California.

7 Q. What were you doing there?

8 A. I was there to film a television commercial for an adult
9 film company.

10 Q. Do you have a specific recollection of the phone call with
11 the defendant you had that day?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. To the best of your recollection, can you please describe
14 the circumstances of the phone call and what was discussed?

15 A. Yes. I was with my team in the living room dining area of
16 the house when I received a phone call. I went to the room,
17 everybody was excited and high-fiving each other and screaming.
18 So I went into my bedroom and closed the door so I could hear,
19 and I talked about how excited I was, and Michael congratulated
20 me, he seemed very happy for me. He told me congrats, I
21 deserved it, I worked really hard, it's a great book, I'm an
22 American hero, I love you Stormy Daniels, and onward and upward
23 kind of thing. And then I said, what about you? And he told
24 me not to worry about it, that he would never take a penny from
25 me for the book, that I earned it and I worked for it.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. After that phone call, did you speak with the defendant on
2 other occasions about whether he would receive a portion of
3 your book advance payments?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Approximately how many other times did you speak with the
6 defendant about whether he would receive a portion of your book
7 advance payments?

8 A. Around three.

9 Q. Generally, what did the defendant say during those
10 conversations?

11 A. That he would never take a penny from my book.

12 Q. What, if anything, did he say about why he wouldn't take a
13 penny from your book advance payments?

14 A. Because I was courageous, and I earned it, and I deserved
15 it.

16 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say during those
17 conversations about how he would earn money from representing
18 you?

19 A. That he was going to get a big payday from winning against
20 Trump and not to worry about him, plus we had crowd funding
21 money.

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please show the
23 witness what is in evidence as Government Exhibit 103 and focus
24 on the top half of the page.

25 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recognize this document?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is it?

3 A. It is a document between Janklow, to Michael I guess.

4 MR. SOBELMAN: Why don't we zoom out for a moment.

5 Q. Is this a contract?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who is it between?

8 A. It is between the literary agent and Stormy Entertainment.

9 Q. What is Stormy Entertainment?

10 A. Me.

11 Q. It's a company you own?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What does it say at the top of the document?

14 A. The very top?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. "Janklow & Nesbit Associates, literary agent," with the
17 address.

18 Q. What is the date on this document?

19 A. April 13, 2018.

20 Q. Can you please read the first paragraph that starts "you
21 have asked us."

22 A. "You have asked us to be your sole and exclusive
23 representative and agent to negotiate for the disposition
24 through the world of any and all rights (as hereinafter
25 defined) to the next literary property you propose to write, a

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 currently untitled work of nonfiction about the story of
2 Stephanie Clifford, the literary work) to be written by Ms.
3 Clifford and a professional writer to be approved by Ms.
4 Clifford. We accept this engagement."

5 Q. Ms. Daniels, what did you understand this paragraph to
6 mean?

7 A. That Luke Janklow was agreeing to be my literary agent.

8 Q. Let's go down to the end of this page. If we could focus
9 on the paragraph starting "in consideration."

10 Ms. Daniels, can you please read this paragraph?

11 A. "In consideration of our services hereunder, and as
12 compensation therefor, you agree to pay and you hereby
13 irrevocably assign to us the following percentages of the gross
14 proceeds (as hereinafter defined) received by you pursuant to
15 all contracts covered by this agreement."

16 Q. What is set forth below this paragraph?

17 A. The percentage that the literary agent was going to get
18 from the book sales.

19 Q. What percentage was that?

20 A. 15 percent.

21 Q. Let's take a look at the third page.

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Can you please focus on the signature
23 blocks.

24 Q. Whose signature appears below Stormy Entertainment, Inc.?

25 A. Mine does.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Did you in fact sign this?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Why didn't you ask the defendant to sign this on your
4 behalf?

5 A. Because I can sign my own name. I sign all my contracts.

6 Q. Could you please -- let me ask a different question. Did
7 you review this whole contract before testifying today?

8 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is there any reference in this contract to any portion of
12 your book payments going to the defendant?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Is there any reference in this contract to any of
15 Mr. Janklow's commission going to the defendant?

16 A. No.

17 Q. At any time before you signed this contract, what, if
18 anything, did the defendant tell you about him receiving a
19 portion of Mr. Janklow's commission?

20 A. Nothing.

21 Q. At any time after you signed this --

22 THE COURT: Sorry, just clearing my throat.

23 Sometimes it doesn't have meaning.

24 MR. SOBELMAN: Understood, your Honor.

25 Q. At any time after you signed this contract, what, if

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 anything, did the defendant tell you about him receiving a
2 portion of Mr. Janklow's commission?

3 A. Nothing.

4 MR. SOBELMAN: We can take down this document.

5 Q. Ms. Daniels, after receiving the first book advance payment
6 on April 11, 2018, what was the next major step with regard to
7 your book?

8 A. To write it.

9 Q. Did you write it on your own or did you have assistance?

10 A. I had a little help from Kevin.

11 Q. Who is Kevin?

12 A. An editor, a ghost writer, somebody that St. Martin's had
13 recommended.

14 Q. Was Kevin publicly given credit for the help he gave you
15 writing the book?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Approximately when did you complete a full draft of the
18 book?

19 A. July 2018.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
21 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 19.

22 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent this message?

23 A. Michael did.

24 Q. Who did he send it to?

25 A. To me.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. What is the date on the message?

2 A. July 13, 2018.

3 Q. It states, "I started reviewing your manuscript on the
4 plane. I am blown away, Stormy Daniels, blown away. This is
5 going to be huge and I am so excited for you. I also want to
6 tell how much I generally love you as a human being. Thank you
7 for allowing me into your life."

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display
11 Government Exhibit 20.

12 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent this message?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. Who did you send it to?

15 A. To Michael.

16 Q. What is the date you sent this message?

17 A. July 29, 2018.

18 Q. Please read the message you sent.

19 A. "Do you know when I get another book payment?"

20 Q. Let's go to the next page.

21 Defendant wrote, "I think you get a payment in the next two
22 weeks."

23 Ms. Daniels, please read the next message that you wrote.

24 A. "That must mean payments two and three come close together.

25 I thought number two was when draft was completed which was a

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 while ago."

2 Q. The defendant responded, "Two comes on acceptance, which
3 should be shortly. And three very soon thereafter."

4 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
5 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 102.

6 Go to the second page, please.

7 Q. Ms. Daniels, which of these paragraphs refers to the second
8 book payment you were to receive?

9 A. The third paragraph.

10 Q. That's the one that starts "175,000" and ends with "the
11 work"?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The second bold paragraph?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When were you to receive the second payment?

16 A. When I turned in the final version of the book.

17 Q. As of the messages we just looked at, late July 2018, had
18 you delivered the manuscript?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What was your understanding at that time of whether the
21 publisher had accepted the manuscript?

22 A. That they had.

23 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
24 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 25.

25 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent these messages?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Michael did.

2 Q. Who did he send them to?

3 A. To me.

4 Q. What is the date on these messages?

5 A. August 23, 2018.

6 Q. The defendant wrote, "Are you good with this?"

7 "Maggie Siff's television roles have included department
8 store heiress Rachel Menken Katz on the AMC drama Mad Men, Tara
9 Knowles on the FX drama Sons of Anarchy, and psychiatrist Wendy
10 Rhodes on the Showtime series Billions. Attached is a sample
11 from Boomer 1, a title that she read for us recently."

12 Then what is below that?

13 A. An audio clip.

14 Q. What did you understand this to be in relation to?

15 A. He wanted me to check out the people that were going to
16 read the audio version of my book and approve it.

17 Q. Let's go to the second page.

18 How did you respond?

19 A. "Sure."

20 Q. The defendant then wrote, "Thanks."

21 Now, as of August 23, 2018, had you received your second
22 payment of your book advance?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Take a look at Government Exhibit 26.

25 Who sent this message?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Michael did.

2 Q. Who did he send it to?

3 A. To me.

4 Q. What is the date on the message?

5 A. August 25, 2018.

6 Q. The defendant wrote, "The other woman has a schedule
7 conflict on the audio. Are you OK with this?"

8 MR. SOBELMAN: Next page, please.

9 Q. Ms. Daniels, what is your understanding of what this next
10 message is?

11 A. Another option for the person to read the audio book.

12 Q. Then below that defendant wrote, "Hi. Are you OK with this
13 woman reading the audio? I'm fine with it. Let me know. Hope
14 you are having fun."

15 At the bottom of the page he wrote, Please respond on
16 the audio question so I can get back to the publisher."

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Go to the next page, please.

18 Q. Ms. Daniels, what is the date on these messages?

19 A. August 27, 2019.

20 Q. '19 or '18?

21 A. Sorry. '18.

22 Q. Can you please read what you wrote in these messages?

23 A. I said, "That's fine. Pretty annoying how they are all
24 over us for something they need but still have not paid me
25 despite final version being submitted a while ago. I'm going

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 to e-mail Elizabeth about it."

2 THE COURT: Does it say "now" at the end of it?

3 THE WITNESS: Now, yes.

4 Q. Who were you referring to when you wrote "they"?

5 A. The publisher.

6 Q. Who is Elizabeth?

7 A. She worked at St. Martin.

8 Q. After this message, did you in fact e-mail Elizabeth that
9 day?

10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. As far as you can recall, did the defendant respond to
12 these particular messages?

13 A. No.

14 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
15 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 27.

16 Q. Who is this message sent from?

17 A. Michael.

18 Q. Who did he send it to?

19 A. To me.

20 Q. What is the date of this message?

21 A. August 30, 2018.

22 Q. The defendant wrote, "Call me when you have service. I
23 have an update on payment doc, book media, etc. All good, no
24 rush." Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. At some point after this message did you speak with the
2 defendant?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say during that
5 conversation about having already received your second book
6 advance payment?

7 A. Nothing.

8 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
9 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 28 next to Government
10 Exhibit 28A.

11 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent this message?

12 A. Michael did.

13 Q. Take another look.

14 A. I'm sorry. I did.

15 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 Can we get the question and answer again, please.

18 MR. SOBELMAN: Yes, your Honor.

19 Q. Who sent this message?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. What name does it say at the top of the message?

22 A. Stormy Daniels.

23 Q. Is that your name?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. On what date did you send this message?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. September 4, 2018.

2 Q. Who did you send this message to?

3 A. To Michael.

4 Q. As of September 4, 2018, what was your understanding
5 regarding whether your second book advance payment had been
6 made by the publisher?

7 A. Michael told me it hadn't.

8 THE WITNESS: Can I move this so there is not a glare?
9 I don't want to touch it.

10 THE COURT: The screen?

11 THE WITNESS: Yes. Can I tilt it?

12 THE COURT: I hope so. Try it and we will keep our
13 fingers crossed.

14 Is that better?

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: No worries.

17 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

18 Q. Just to make sure I didn't miss it, as of September 4,
19 2018, what was your understanding of whether the second book
20 payment on your book contract had been paid?

21 A. That it had not.

22 Q. How did you come to that understanding?

23 A. Because I had not received it.

24 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant tell you about the
25 status of the second book advance payment on your book contract

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 as of September 4, 2018?

2 A. That it had not been sent.

3 Q. Let's take a look at these messages. What did you send in
4 this first message?

5 A. A screenshot.

6 Q. Is that what appears on the right here in 28A?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What is it a screenshot of?

9 A. My banking information.

10 Q. Let's go down to the next message.

11 What did you write immediately after sending this
12 screenshot of your banking information?

13 A. "My new account info for publisher."

14 Q. What did you write after that?

15 A. "Still Stormy Entertainment, just new account."

16 Q. What did you mean by this message?

17 A. This is where I would like my payments sent to.

18 Q. What did you mean by "still Stormy Entertainment, just new
19 account"?

20 A. That it was still my account information, my name on the
21 account, but the account number was different.

22 Q. And the defendant responded, "Got it."

23 Do you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Why did you send these messages to the defendant?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. So that they could wire my payment to me.

2 Q. Payment for what?

3 A. My second payment of my book advance.

4 Q. Why were you changing the account information for your book
5 advance payments?

6 A. Because I opened a second account.

7 Q. Why did you open a second account?

8 A. Because my husband and I were having problems and some of
9 the money I was receiving was production money and I wanted to
10 keep it separate.

11 Q. When you sent these messages, what was your understanding
12 of which of your book advance payments would be sent into this
13 account?

14 A. Two, three, and four.

15 Q. At any point did the defendant tell you they would not be?

16 A. No.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please display
18 what is in evidence as Government Exhibit 29.

19 Q. Who sent these messages?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Just to be clear, who sent the message in the blue?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. Who sent the message in the green?

24 A. Michael.

25 Q. Can you please read the message you sent at the top?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. "I did not get paid today. I am not fucking happy. They
2 are in breach of contract by about four weeks."

3 Q. What is the date on this message?

4 A. September 5, 2018.

5 Q. What did you mean "I did not get paid today"?

6 A. That I didn't get paid; as of this date, I did not receive
7 the payment I was due.

8 Q. Is that the second book advance payment we were just
9 talking about?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What did you mean when you said "they are in breach of
12 contract by about four weeks"?

13 A. Because it was my understanding that the second payment was
14 due when I turned in the manuscript, which was a month before
15 that. Way before that, actually.

16 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display what
17 is in evidence as Government Exhibit 301A.

18 Q. Ms. Daniels, what is this?

19 A. A cashier's check.

20 Q. What is the date on the cashier's check?

21 A. September 5, 2018.

22 Q. Who is it addressed to?

23 A. Stormy Entertainment.

24 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant tell you about this
25 cashier's check?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. He said that the publisher had mailed him my second book
2 payment to his office.

3 Q. How did you respond to the defendant when he told you that
4 this check had arrived from the publisher at his office?

5 A. I was confused and extremely irritated.

6 Q. Why?

7 A. Because I had given specific wire instructions to send it
8 into my account, so I didn't understand why they would, one,
9 send a check, and two, send it not to me but to Michael
10 Avenatti's office.

11 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say in response when
12 you told him you were confused and annoyed?

13 A. He pointed out at least we got it, and I agreed.

14 Q. What, if anything, did the defendant say he would do with
15 this check?

16 A. That he would go and deposit it for me.

17 Q. Look at the back of this document, which is on the next
18 page.

19 Do you know whose handwriting this is?

20 A. I do not.

21 Q. What bank account is listed there?

22 A. Mine.

23 Q. On the right-hand side?

24 A. Yes, mine.

25 Q. 7417?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please go to the
3 third page of 301A.

4 Q. Ms. Daniels, what is this?

5 A. A bank statement.

6 Q. For what bank account?

7 A. Mine, Stormy Entertainment.

8 Q. What time period is this statement for?

9 A. September of 2018.

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Can you please display page 5 of this
11 exhibit next to page 3.

12 Can you please focus on the top part of the fifth
13 page.

14 Q. Ms. Daniels, this is under the deposits and credits
15 section, is that correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Can you please read the date on the left side of this line?

18 A. September 5, 2018.

19 Q. What is the description written next to the date?

20 A. Counter credit.

21 Q. How does the amount of the counter credit compare to the
22 amount on the cashier's check?

23 A. It's the same.

24 Q. Let's put the cashier's check up one more time, page 1 of
25 this document.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Ms. Daniels, by looking at this cashier's check, could you
2 figure out specifically what bank account this money came from?

3 A. City National Bank.

4 Q. Who owned the bank account?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. You can't tell based on seeing this, right?

7 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 A. No, I cannot.

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, please display what is in
11 evidence as Government Exhibit 33 alongside Government Exhibit
12 33A.

13 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you see in Government Exhibit 33 there are
14 messages?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Who are they between?

17 A. Myself and Michael.

18 Q. What is the date on these messages?

19 A. October 1, 2018.

20 Q. Can you please read the first message that you wrote?

21 A. "That means I get paid tomorrow, right?"

22 Q. What does the message underneath that?

23 A. It's a screenshot.

24 Q. It's an attachment?

25 A. Attachment.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. So what is it a screenshot of?

2 A. My book contract.

3 Q. Is that what we see in 33A?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who took this screenshot?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. Why did you take this screenshot?

8 A. To reiterate, I circled that I had a payment due, and sent
9 it to him.

10 Q. Why did you send it to the defendant?

11 A. Just in case he didn't have it handy and to clarify that I
12 was correct that I was supposed to receive a payment.

13 Q. Which payment are we talking about, the first, the second,
14 the third or the fourth?

15 A. The third.

16 Q. As of this date, what was your understanding of whether the
17 third payment on your book contract had been paid?

18 A. The publisher had not paid it.

19 Q. What was that understanding based on?

20 A. That I didn't have the money and that's what Michael told
21 me.

22 Q. Do you see down here that he just responds, "Yes "?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. By the way, why were you asking the defendant for help with
25 your book advance payments?

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Because he was my attorney and he said run everything by
2 him. I trusted him to handle it.

3 Q. Why did you trust him?

4 A. Because he was my attorney.

5 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can ask you please display
6 what is in evidence as Government Exhibit 35.

7 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

8 A. From myself to Michael Avenatti.

9 Q. What date are these messages sent?

10 A. October 2, 2018.

11 Q. Would you please read the first message?

12 A. "Which reminds me ... publisher owes me a payment today."

13 Q. And the defendant responded, "On it. We need to make sure
14 we have the publicity requirement met."

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Let's take a look at the second page, please.

18 The defendant then wrote, "It's Stormy Daniels day 2.0."

19 How did you respond?

20 A. "Haha."

21 Q. Please read the next message you wrote.

22 A. "The PR requirement is very broad. Just says three weeks,
23 which I've already done stuff for."

24 Q. Please read your next message.

25 A. "I know Denver is on it though."

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Who is Denver?

2 A. Denver was handling my PR at the time.

3 Q. The defendant responded, "I know. Don't sweat it. I spoke
4 with Denver."

5 Do you see that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you just point to where in this document the defendant
8 said that he had already received your third book payment?

9 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 A. He doesn't.

12 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can we take a look at
13 Government Exhibit 36, please.

14 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

15 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

16 Q. What date were these messages sent?

17 A. October 3, 2018.

18 Q. Can you please read the first two messages that you wrote?

19 A. "Watch Kimmel tonight. And are publishers trying not to
20 pay me?"

21 Q. What did you mean by "watch Kimmel tonight"?

22 A. I wanted Michael to see my appearance on the Jimmy Kimmel
23 show.

24 Q. Why were you on the Jimmy Kimmel show?

25 A. To promote the book.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. When approximately was the book released?

2 A. That day.

3 Q. In the second message you wrote, "And are publishers trying
4 not to pay me?" What did you mean by that?

5 A. That it was late that day and I hadn't received my payment.

6 Q. Just to be clear, what was your understanding at this time
7 about whether the defendant had -- what is your understanding
8 at this time about whether your third book payment had been
9 paid by the publisher?

10 A. That it hadn't.

11 Q. What was that understanding based on?

12 A. Because I didn't have the money.

13 Q. Who, if anyone, talked to you about whether that payment
14 had been paid?

15 A. Michael.

16 Q. What, if anything, did he tell you in this time period
17 about whether that payment had been paid?

18 A. That it had not been sent.

19 Q. The defendant then responded, "I did. It was great. No on
20 the publishers. We are not going to have any issues. Awesome
21 job."

22 Ms. Daniels, can you just point to where in this
23 message the defendant told you that he had your third book
24 advance payment?

25 A. I can't because he didn't.

M1R8AVE4

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. At this time, and I mean around October 3, 2018, how often
2 were you speaking to the defendant by phone?

3 A. Almost daily.

4 Q. In any of those telephone conversations, did the defendant
5 tell you that he had your third book advance payment?

6 A. Absolutely not.

7 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, please display what is in
8 evidence as Government Exhibit 37.

9 Q. Who are these messages between?

10 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

11 Q. What date were they sent?

12 A. October 26, 2018.

13 Q. Can you please read the message that you wrote?

14 A. "The publisher owes me a payment. It's been over three
15 weeks of intense press for the book. Also, what time on Monday
16 can I expect an answer from Efran. This is bullshit. I am
17 going to call Sean on Tuesday if we don't have something on
18 Monday. It's been months."

19 (Continued on next page)
20
21
22
23
24
25

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

2 Q. The defendant responded: "Hi. Agreed. I can call you
3 later or tomorrow to discuss, whichever you want. I'm
4 available. Good luck tonight. Not that you need it."

5 Did the references to Sean or Efran have any connection to
6 the book deal or book advance payments?

7 A. No.

8 MR. AVENATTI: Leading.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you talk to the defendant shortly after these messages
12 were exchanged?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And in that conversation, what, if anything, did the
15 defendant say about whether he had received your third book
16 advance payment?

17 A. Nothing.

18 Q. What, if anything, did he say about whether your third book
19 advance payment had been paid by the publisher?

20 A. Nothing.

21 Q. Just to be clear, did he make any statements about the
22 status of your third book advance payment?

23 A. He said he hadn't received anything, but it shouldn't be a
24 problem.

25 Q. In this message, Government Exhibit 37, can you please

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 point to me where the defendant said that he'd already received
2 your third book advance payment?

3 A. I can't, because he didn't.

4 Q. Move on to Government Exhibit 38, please.

5 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

6 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

7 Q. What date were they sent?

8 A. October 29, 2018.

9 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please read the messages that you
10 wrote?

11 A. "Also...did you ask publisher about my payment? Tomorrow
12 it will be one week late."

13 Q. Ms. Daniels, what payment were you referring to in the
14 first message?

15 A. Payment No. 3 of 4.

16 Q. These are your book advance payments?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The defendant responded: "Yes, they are on it. Will call
19 you when I land." Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What did you understand the defendant to mean when he
22 responded "yes, they are on it"?

23 A. That they were processing my payment.

24 Q. Can you please point to me where in the defendant's message
25 that he said that your third payment had already been paid and

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 he had it?

2 A. I can't, because he didn't.

3 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, could you please display
4 what's in evidence as Government Exhibit 224.

5 Actually, I'm not sure this is in evidence. Please
6 just for the witness.

7 Q. Ms. Daniels, what is this?

8 A. Text messages.

9 Q. Who sent them?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. Who did you send them to?

12 A. Elizabeth from St. Martin Press.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: The government offers Government
14 Exhibit 224.

15 THE COURT: Any objection?

16 MR. AVENATTI: Objection, your Honor. Hearsay.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Your Honor, they're not offered for
18 their truth.

19 THE COURT: All right. The objection is overruled.
20 In light of that, it is admitted.

21 (Government Exhibit 224 received in evidence)

22 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, as with some of the
23 other exhibits that have been admitted, you may not consider
24 any of the statements in this exhibit for their truth but
25 merely for the fact that the message was sent and what it

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 reveals about the sender's state of mind.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's focus on the top half of the
4 page, please. If you could include the date and time in
5 zooming in. Thank you.

6 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent these messages?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Who did you send them to?

9 A. Elizabeth from St. Martin Press.

10 Q. And on what date did you send these?

11 A. November 12, 2018.

12 Q. Could you please read what you wrote?

13 A. "Hi, Elizabeth. I hope you are doing well. I am flying to
14 the U.K. tomorrow and wanted to touch base about my next
15 payment. It was due a bit ago, but I was unable to reach Luke.
16 Do you need my wire info?"

17 Q. Did Elizabeth respond to these messages?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you know why she did not respond?

20 A. No idea.

21 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, please display what's in
22 evidence as Government Exhibit 39.

23 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

24 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

25 Q. What date were they sent?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. November 13, 2018.

2 Q. Could you please read the first two messages you sent to
3 the defendant on that date?

4 A. "Where is my book payment? I've texted Elizabeth but no
5 response."

6 Q. What did you mean by "where is my book payment"?

7 A. Did he know the whereabouts of my third book payment
8 advance?

9 Q. And the defendant responded, "Let me check." Do you see
10 that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Where in that message did the defendant say that he'd
13 already received your third book payment?

14 A. He didn't.

15 Q. Where in that message did the defendant say he'd already
16 spent your third book payment?

17 A. He didn't.

18 Q. Please read the next text message you sent to the
19 defendant.

20 A. "What did they say?"

21 Q. The defendant responded: "Waiting for call back. Just got
22 out of court." What did you say next?

23 A. "Got it."

24 Q. Approximately how long after the "let me check" message did
25 you send the "what did they say" message?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 MR. SOBELMAN: If we can zoom out for a moment.

2 A. A couple hours, two and a half hours.

3 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "what did they say"?

4 A. I was asking for a follow-up.

5 Q. What did you understand the defendant to mean when he wrote
6 "waiting for call back"?

7 A. That he had called St. Martin's Press and they had not
8 returned his phone call.

9 Q. Do you know if he actually did that?

10 A. I have no way of knowing.

11 Q. Please read the last message on the page.

12 A. "Got it."

13 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "got it"?

14 A. Message received.

15 Q. Please go to Government Exhibit 40.

16 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

17 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

18 Q. What is the date on these messages?

19 A. November 20, 2018.

20 Q. Could you please read the first message you sent to the
21 defendant?

22 A. "When you get a min, please give me an update on and my
23 book payment. I have emailed and called with no response."

24 Q. What did you mean by "give me an update on my book
25 payment"?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. I was asking for the status on my payment No. 3.

2 Q. What did you mean by "I have emailed and called but no
3 response"?

4 A. That I wasn't getting an answer or a call back from the
5 publisher.

6 Q. At that time did you know why you had gotten no response?

7 A. No.

8 Q. The defendant responded: "No problem. Talk in a.m." And
9 you responded "OK"?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Did you, in fact, speak to the defendant shortly after
12 these messages were exchanged?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In that conversation, what, if anything, did he say about
15 your third book advance payment?

16 A. He said that he was working on getting it from the
17 publisher.

18 Q. What, if anything, did he say about what he might do to try
19 to get the money from your publisher for your third book
20 advance payment?

21 A. He told me they were being difficult and that we would
22 probably have to -- he would probably have to send them a
23 letter, a demand letter.

24 Q. What, if anything, did he explain would be in that letter?

25 A. Demanding that they pay me; they were in breach of

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 contract.

2 Q. Let's move to Government Exhibit 41.

3 Who are these messages between?

4 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

5 Q. What is the date on these messages?

6 A. November 27, 2018.

7 Q. Please read what you wrote in these messages.

8 A. "What about the publisher? And reimbursement for dragons?

9 How much is in the legal fund?"

10 Q. What did you mean by "what about the publisher"?

11 A. I was once again asking for an update.

12 Q. Update on what?

13 A. Where my book payment was.

14 Q. Which one?

15 A. Three.

16 Q. What did you mean by "and reimbursement for dragons?"

17 A. Dragons were my bodyguards. That was the nickname we gave

18 them. I called them my dragons, and Michael was responsible

19 for paying them from the legal fund. At this point in time,

20 they were having difficulty getting paid from him, and they

21 were looking to me. So they were physically with me at the

22 time, always with me. And so Michael told me just to pay them

23 back out of my -- just to pay them myself and he was going to

24 have his secretary send me the reimbursement for the 26,000.

25 Q. Do you remember the name of his secretary?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Her name is Judy.

2 Q. You also wrote, "How much is in the legal fund?" What did
3 you mean by that?

4 A. I wanted to know what the balance was left in the crowd
5 funding.

6 Q. Let's go to the next page.

7 The defendant responded: "1, waiting on PR list from
8 Denver to finalize letter to publisher. 2, will get the
9 reimbursement sent. Judy is back from vacation late today. 3,
10 will also get the accounting on the legal fund." What did you
11 understand the defendant to mean when he said "waiting on PR
12 list from Denver to finalize letter to publisher"?

13 A. That he was still drafting the demand letter for my book
14 payment No. 3 to send to the publisher and he wanted to send an
15 attachment along with the letter that included all of the
16 press, PR, appearances, bookstore signings, television
17 appearances, all of the things I had done to promote the book
18 so that it was able to be proved that I had completed the
19 requirement for PR.

20 Q. So at that point, what was your understanding of whether
21 the third book payment had been paid?

22 A. That it hadn't; that's why he was sending a letter.

23 Q. What was that understanding based on?

24 A. That he was sending them a letter and I hadn't received it.

25 Q. And to be clear, who told you it hadn't been paid?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Michael did.

2 Q. Let's stay with that message for a second.

3 The defendant wrote: "Will get the reimbursement sent.

4 Judy is back from vacation late today." What did you

5 understand him to mean by "will get the reimbursement sent"?

6 A. That Judy would send me back the \$26,000 that I had -- I

7 had given the dragons per Michael's request.

8 Q. Can you point me to where in this message the defendant

9 wrote that you're responsible for your own security costs?

10 A. Nowhere.

11 Q. Can you point me to where in this message the defendant

12 said he had loaned you money?

13 A. Nowhere.

14 Q. Can you point me to where in this message the defendant

15 said that he'd advanced you costs that you were going to have

16 to pay back later?

17 A. Nowhere. I advanced him the money.

18 Q. After 3, it says "will also get the accounting on the legal

19 fund." What did you understand the defendant to mean when he

20 wrote that?

21 A. That he would send me an updated balance of what was left

22 from the crowd fund.

23 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please read the next message you

24 wrote?

25 A. "He should be done with it anytime now. I did 80 percent

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 of it and sent it to him to fill in the blanks for me."

2 Q. Please scroll down to the next message. Can you please
3 read that one too?

4 A. "There is a lot of stuff I bet they don't know about. I
5 hope they feel like assholes."

6 Q. What did you mean when you wrote that?

7 A. That we were compiling the list of all the things I did to
8 promote the book. It was a very lengthy list, and at this
9 point I was told that that was the sticking point, that they
10 weren't happy with the press, the amount of press I had done.
11 And in fairness, I had my own publicist who was doing things
12 that -- I was assuming that perhaps the publisher didn't know
13 and that when they found out how much I had done, that they'd
14 feel like jerks for not paying me.

15 Q. Not paying you which payment?

16 A. Payment No. 3.

17 THE COURT: Just to clarify, you said that you had
18 been told that that was the sticking point. Who had told you
19 that?

20 THE WITNESS: Michael Avenatti.

21 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

22 Q. The defendant responded: "Agreed. They should feel like
23 assholes. It's bullshit." Do you see that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Where in that message did the defendant tell you your third

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 book payment had already been paid?

2 A. Nowhere. He didn't say that.

3 Q. Where in that message did the defendant tell you he'd
4 already spent your third book payment?

5 A. He didn't.

6 Q. Let's go down.

7 Ms. Daniels, please read the next message starting "I
8 know."

9 A. "I know sales plummeted when we lost the defamation case.
10 So did all my other money because people think we lost
11 everything, which they think means I lost credibility."

12 Q. And the defendant responded: "Sales actually never got off
13 the ground according to the publisher although I have asked for
14 the numbers. The defamation case was dismissed two weeks after
15 the book was released. According to the publisher. And again,
16 I have not confirmed this, the sales in the next ten days did
17 not meet their expectations but didn't have anything to do with
18 your publicity as you and I both know."

19 Let's go to the next page.

20 Ms. Daniels, please read your next message?

21 A. "Then how is it ranked so high on New York Times and 4 in
22 Canada?"

23 Q. The defendant responded: Good question. I think due to
24 preorders, but again, we need to confirm this."

25 What did you write next?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. "Regardless, my contract does not say it has to sell or I
2 don't get paid."

3 Q. Let's go down and read the responses.

4 The defendant wrote: Exactly," with four exclamation
5 points. "You did your part and then some."

6 Ms. Daniels, how did you respond?

7 A. "Then why are they being dicks?"

8 Q. Who did you mean by "they"?

9 A. The publisher.

10 Q. And why did you think they were being dicks?

11 A. Because they weren't upholding their part of the contract
12 by paying me my third payment.

13 Q. And why did you think that you had not been paid your third
14 payment?

15 A. Because I didn't have it, and Michael told me they hadn't
16 sent it.

17 Q. Let's go to the next page.

18 Ms. Daniels, can you read your next message?

19 A. "Check your email."

20 Q. The defendant responded: "Got it. Thanks."

21 And what did you write next?

22 A. "Seems like a decent list."

23 Q. And the defendant responded: Yeah, beyond," with three
24 exclamation points.

25 Ms. Daniels, we just went through four pages of messages,

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And where in there did the defendant say there was no need
4 to make a list of PR appearances because he had already
5 received your third book payment?

6 A. Nowhere.

7 Q. Take a look at Government Exhibit 42.

8 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

9 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

10 Q. What are they dated?

11 A. November 28, 2018.

12 Q. Please read your first message.

13 A. "Any news?"

14 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "any news?"

15 A. I was asking, once again, for an update on where my third
16 payment was and if he had had any correspondence with the
17 publisher.

18 Q. The defendant responded: "I should also have the publisher
19 letter finalized and out." What did you understand that to
20 mean?

21 A. That he was moving forward with sending them the demand
22 letter about my payment and the PR list.

23 Q. Where in this message does it say that a letter to the
24 publisher about your PR is entirely unnecessary because he had
25 already received and spent your book advance payment?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Nowhere.

2 Q. Take a look at Government Exhibit 43.

3 Ms. Daniels, who sent these messages?

4 A. Michael did.

5 Q. Who did he send them to?

6 A. To me.

7 Q. And what date were they sent?

8 A. November 28, 2018.

9 Q. The defendant wrote: "Can you call me?"

10 Next message: "Stormy, the campaign is basically a
11 continuation of the prior campaign. I was simply trying to
12 jump-start the effort again. Nothing more, nothing less. I
13 thought in light of Efran, etc., you could use the money. I
14 didn't think it was a big deal. No different than the prior
15 updates. I'm sorry."

16 What did you understand the defendant to be referring to in
17 this message?

18 A. A post I put on social media.

19 Q. And what was that post about?

20 A. I had discovered I was being -- my email and social media
21 accounts were being blown up by people asking me about
22 accounting for the crowd funding, the legal defense fund. They
23 sent me a link to a second legal defense fund that I knew
24 nothing about, and they were making fun of me, saying I must be
25 broke. And I was upset.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Who set up that legal defense fund?

2 A. Michael did.

3 Q. And before it was set up, what, if anything, did he tell
4 you about that second legal defense fund?

5 A. Nothing.

6 Q. With respect to the first legal defense fund we talked
7 about earlier, who did you understand controlled how that money
8 was spent?

9 A. Michael.

10 Q. Let's read on. It says: "You can't send that out" -- that
11 statement.

12 Sorry. Let me start over. It says: "You can't send out
13 that stmt, Stormy. I don't deserve that. Please. I
14 understand you are upset about Keith, et al., but I've been
15 your advocate and friend. I don't know why you would go after
16 me in the press like this. That's not good or fair."

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Go to the next page.

18 Maybe there isn't a next page.

19 Q. Again, what did you understand these messages to refer to?

20 A. Michael was upset about what I had posted publicly.

21 Q. Why did you make that public post?

22 A. Because it was true. I didn't know anything about a second
23 crowd funding campaign, and I didn't know the accounting.

24 Q. Let's go to Government Exhibit 44.

25 Ms. Daniels, who sent this message?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. Michael did.

2 Q. Who did he send it to?

3 A. To me.

4 Q. And what date did he send it?

5 A. November 29, 2018.

6 Q. The defendant wrote: "You should not be attacking me
7 publicly. It puts me in a very difficult spot because I have
8 to defend myself and I don't want to respond in kind. We have
9 to work this out."

10 Let's go to the next page.

11 The defendant wrote: "We need to get on the phone, Stormy.
12 We have to figure out a soft landing. We can't be fighting
13 publicly. I don't know where that stmt came from."

14 Ms. Daniels, can you please read your response?

15 A. "I did not attack you. I stated all of -- I stated all my
16 truths. Are you threatening me now?"

17 Q. Please read your next message.

18 A. "I was very careful to state my side and give you credit
19 and thanks, but facts are facts. Checks have bounced. I have
20 not been paid. I've asked for accounting. I'm tired of
21 finding shit out on Twitter. I was being attacked about a fund
22 I never heard of. I'm not a liar and not a thief. You are an;
23 incredible and brilliant man with balls of steel. I will
24 always admire you."

25 Q. Ms. Daniels, what did you mean by "I have not been paid"?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. That I had not received my payment from the publisher.

2 Q. The defendant responded: "I'm not threatening you, Stormy.
3 I've never threatened you." Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Can I add something?

6 Q. What, if anything else, did you mean --

7 THE COURT: Wait for counsel's question, please.

8 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

9 Q. What, if anything, did you mean by the prior message that
10 starts "I was very careful"?

11 A. That I stated just the truth and was careful to give
12 Michael credit, but I was upset that people hadn't been paid
13 and checks were bounced. I had not received my payment
14 from the publisher and I had not been reimbursed for the
15 \$26,000 to the -- my security team that I, that Michael asked
16 me to front.

17 Q. When you wrote checks have been bounced or "checks have
18 bounced," what did you mean?

19 A. Several payments to the security team had bounced, and they
20 were physically with me. So they were looking to me every day
21 for answers, and I didn't know what to tell them. It was
22 embarrassing.

23 Q. Who wrote those checks?

24 A. Michael did.

25 Q. And you wrote, "I've asked for accounting." What did you

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 mean by that?

2 A. That I was wondering how much money was in the crowd fund,
3 the legal defense fund, because I couldn't understand why I
4 hadn't been reimbursed and why checks were bouncing. I wanted
5 to make sure that I wasn't overspending.

6 Q. Before this date, November 29, 2018, had the defendant ever
7 provided you a list of what the crowd funding money had been
8 spent on?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Had you asked?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. On one occasion or more than one occasion?

13 A. I can't remember.

14 Q. Let's take a look at what's in evidence as Government
15 Exhibit 2.

16 Do you recognize this?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is it?

19 A. It was a letter from Michael to me.

20 Q. What's the date on this letter?

21 A. November 30, 2018.

22 Q. Who sent it to you?

23 A. Michael did.

24 Q. What did you understand this letter to be when you received
25 it?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. An accounting for the -- the crowd fund.

2 Q. And what is your understanding of why the defendant sent
3 you this letter?

4 A. Because I asked him to.

5 Q. What is your understanding of whether this was supposed to
6 include all the costs expended for all of your matters with him
7 and his firm?

8 A. I thought it included everything.

9 Q. Is there any reference in this letter to your book advance
10 contract?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Is there any reference in this letter to your book advance
13 payments?

14 A. No.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, can you please display
16 what's in evidence as Government Exhibit 45.

17 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent these messages?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. You sent the ones in the blue?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who sent the ones in the green?

22 A. The green are Michael Avenatti.

23 Q. What is the date on these messages?

24 A. November 30, 2018.

25 Q. Please read your first message.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. "And let's not forget the publisher."

2 Q. What did you mean by that?

3 A. Don't forget to give me an update or find out where my
4 money's at.

5 Q. By your money, what were you referring to?

6 A. Book payment No. 3.

7 Q. And at this time, November 30, 2018, what did you
8 understand the status of your third book payment to be?

9 A. That it was almost two months late -- I'm sorry. Yes,
10 almost two months late.

11 Q. Who, if anyone, told you that?

12 A. Michael did.

13 Q. And the defendant responded: "I haven't. That's complete
14 bullshit." Do you see that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Where in that message did the defendant say I've already
17 received your third book payment and I've spent it?

18 A. Nowhere.

19 Q. Please read your next message.

20 A. "I think the press list is impressive."

21 Q. The defendant responded: "No question. 100 percent." Do
22 you see that?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. Where in this message exchange did the defendant say we
25 don't need to send a press list because we already got your

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 third book payment?

2 A. He didn't say that.

3 MR. SOBELMAN: Please display what's in evidence as
4 Government Exhibit 46.

5 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

6 A. Between myself and Michael Avenatti.

7 Q. And what date were they sent?

8 A. December 2, 2018.

9 Q. The defendant wrote: "Now that Michael and I have sorted
10 everything out and we know the accounting is on the up and up,
11 we are going to kick ass together on two coasts tomorrow.
12 #TeamStormy." Then he wrote: "Let me know when you have
13 tweeted and I will re-tweet that and the next one."

14 Ms. Daniels, what did you understand he was communicating
15 to you in these messages?

16 A. This was a post that Michael wanted me to put up on my
17 social media as a statement from myself.

18 Q. What was your understanding of why he wanted you to put
19 this statement on your social media as if it was from you?

20 A. So that it appeared we had worked things out, that there
21 was no more questions.

22 Q. Please read your response below.

23 A. "Tweeted. Had to add a curse word so no one would be
24 suspicious."

25 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "tweeted"?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. That I had posted it on my Twitter account.

2 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "had to add a curse word
3 so no one would be suspicious"?

4 A. Because my fans know that I have a potty mouth, so I -- I
5 changed his statements to put in a curse word.

6 Q. Why did you post the tweet with the curse word added that
7 he asked you to post?

8 A. So that people didn't know that I was having him control
9 what I was putting out.

10 Q. At the time you posted this tweet, based on your
11 conversations with the defendant, what did you understand the
12 status of your third book payment to be?

13 A. That the publisher had not released it and Michael had to
14 send them a letter.

15 Q. Why did you think that?

16 A. Because I had not received any money and Michael hadn't
17 told me he -- any different.

18 Q. Let's turn to Government Exhibit 47.

19 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

20 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

21 Q. What date were they sent?

22 A. December 3, 2018.

23 Q. The defendant wrote: "Morning. I think I should publish
24 the accounting numbers, not the whole letter, so people won't
25 think money was misappropriated and can see where the money

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 went. You don't have a problem with that, right? I think it's
2 important for both of us so nobody can claim either of us
3 'misspent' their money." What did you understand this message
4 to mean?

5 A. That he wanted to put up the list of numbers that were in
6 the previous letter, where, so people could see what the money
7 from the crowd funding had been used for.

8 Q. At that time did you believe the defendant had misspent
9 your money?

10 A. No.

11 Q. At that time what did you understand the status of your
12 third book payment to be?

13 A. That the publisher still had it.

14 Q. How did you respond?

15 A. "OK."

16 Q. And then the defendant responded: "Thanks." Do you see
17 that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Let's turn to Government Exhibit 48.

20 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

21 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

22 Q. What date were they sent?

23 A. December 5, 2018.

24 Q. Please read the first message here.

25 A. "When is the publisher going to cough up my money?"

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. What did you mean by that?

2 A. That I was very quickly out of patience and I wanted my
3 third book payment.

4 Q. Let's turn to the next page.

5 The defendant responded: "As for publisher -- working them
6 and threatening litigation. They need to pay you are the money
7 as you did your part and then some." Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Where in that message does it say that the defendant
10 received and spent your third book payment months ago?

11 A. It doesn't say that.

12 Q. Let's scroll down.

13 Please read your message

14 A. "Ummm...yes."

15 Q. Continue down.

16 Please read your message.

17 A. "How can they think for one moment that they can get away
18 with not paying me?"

19 Q. Let's go to the next page.

20 The defendant responded: "No. They will have to pay you,
21 Stormy." Ms. Daniels, where in this message did the defendant
22 tell you they had already made the payment but the defendant
23 took it?

24 A. Nowhere.

25 Q. Turn to Government Exhibit 49.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

2 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

3 Q. What date were they sent?

4 A. December 20, 2018.

5 Q. Please read your first message on the screen.

6 A. "Where are we with publisher? I'm about 2 seconds from
7 blasting them publicly".

8 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "where are we with
9 publisher"?

10 A. I was, once again, asking for an update to see if they
11 responded to his letter and where my money was.

12 Q. Do you know if the defendant ever actually sent the
13 publisher a letter about your third book payment?

14 A. I have no way of knowing.

15 Q. And as of December 20, 2018, what was your understanding of
16 the status of your third book payment?

17 A. That the publisher still had it.

18 Q. Who told you that?

19 A. Michael did.

20 Q. And you wrote, "I'm about 2 seconds from blasting them
21 publicly." What did you mean?

22 A. That I was going to post on my social media that St.
23 Martin's Press doesn't uphold contracts.

24 Q. Why were you going to do that?

25 A. Because they -- it was my belief that they had not paid me

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 and were almost two -- over two months late.

2 Q. And the message below reads: "And firing Luke." Do you
3 see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Why did you write that?

6 A. Because Luke was my literary agent, and I couldn't get a
7 response from him. I called him and text him, and he never
8 answered me. And I didn't understand why I was giving somebody
9 15 percent to not help me.

10 Q. Do you know why Luke had not responded to you?

11 A. I have no idea.

12 Q. Let's go to page 3 of this exhibit.

13 Let me just ask. Did the defendant ever tell you if he had
14 told Mr. Janklow or the publisher not to contact you about your
15 book's finances?

16 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Lacks foundation.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 You can answer.

19 A. No, of course not.

20 Q. He never said anything like that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. The defendant wrote: "Call me and I can give you an
23 update. I'm available all afternoon." How did you respond?

24 A. "OK. Give me 15 min."

25 Q. The defendant then wrote: "No problem."

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Ms. Daniels, did you speak with the defendant shortly after
2 these messages?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And during that conversation, what, if anything, did the
5 defendant say about how he had already received and spent your
6 third book payment?

7 A. He didn't say anything like that.

8 Q. What did he say about the third book payment?

9 A. That he was still working on it.

10 Q. What, if anything, did he say he was doing to, quote, work
11 on it.

12 A. That at this point he had sent a letter; he was
13 negotiating; that he was going to make them pay me.

14 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, please display what's in
15 evidence next to each other as Government Exhibits 50 and 50A.

16 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

17 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

18 Q. What date were they sent?

19 A. December 27, 2018.

20 Q. Please read your first message.

21 A. Uh-huh. "I'm sending publisher a certified letter
22 demanding payment and firing Luke. Then I may post it online
23 for fun. I am trapped in this house with my ex until I get
24 paid. Each day is one step closer to one of us going to jail."

25 Q. What did you mean when you wrote, "I'm sending publisher a

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 certified letter demanding payment"?

2 A. That I wanted to have a receipt, a physical receipt that
3 the -- I had sent correspondence to the publisher, demanding my
4 third book payment, and releasing Luke from our deal.

5 Q. Why did you write, "I am trapped in this house with my ex
6 until I get paid"?

7 A. Because this is between Christmas and New Year's, so it was
8 the holidays. My husband and I were separated and staying in
9 the same house, and it was uncomfortable.

10 Q. What, if anything, did you plan to do with your third book
11 payment when you received it?

12 A. Put a down payment on a house.

13 Q. If you could afford your own house, would you continue to
14 live with your ex-husband?

15 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Relevance.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 A. No.

18 Q. What did you mean by "each day is one step closer to one of
19 us going to jail"?

20 A. Because things were getting very tense between he and I.

21 Q. What's the message underneath that one?

22 A. It's a screenshot that I sent to Michael.

23 Q. And just generally, what was that?

24 A. It was a copy of the letter that I drafted to send to the
25 publisher.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. And do you recall whether or not you actually sent that
2 letter?

3 A. I don't remember.

4 Q. And let's look at the defendant's response.

5 The defendant responded: "Call me re book." Do you see
6 that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you speak to the defendant shortly after these
9 messages?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. During that conversation, what, if anything, did the
12 defendant say about the status of your third book payment?

13 A. He told me nothing. He told me he didn't have it.

14 Q. At that point what was your understanding of whether the
15 publisher had paid your third book payment?

16 A. I was under the understanding they still had it.

17 Q. Who told you that?

18 A. Michael did.

19 MR. SOBELMAN: Ms. Abrams, let's take a look at
20 Government Exhibit 51.

21 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

22 A. Between myself and Michael Avenatti.

23 Q. What date were these sent?

24 A. January 3, 2019.

25 Q. The defendant wrote: "Making progress re book. Hope your

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 travels are going well. Call for an update when you can." How
2 did you respond?

3 A. "OK. Getting checked in at airport, call in a bit."

4 Q. What did you understand the defendant to mean when he wrote
5 "making progress re book"?

6 A. That he was getting closer to securing my third book
7 payment from the publisher for me.

8 Q. Where in this message did the defendant say that he had
9 already received and spent your third book payment?

10 A. It doesn't say that anywhere.

11 Q. Did you speak with the defendant shortly after exchanging
12 these messages?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And during that conversation, what do you recall him saying
15 about your third book payment?

16 A. He didn't say he had it. He was still working on it.

17 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 52.

18 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

19 A. Between myself and Michael Avenatti.

20 Q. What date were they sent?

21 A. January 15, 2019.

22 Q. Please read your first message.

23 A. "Any word from publisher?"

24 Q. What did you mean by "any word from publisher?"

25 A. Have they responded to his letter?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. And what payment did you understand was due at that time?

2 A. Advance book payment No. 3.

3 Q. Why did you think the third payment was still due?

4 A. Because I had not received it.

5 Q. Who, if anyone, told you the third payment had not been
6 paid?

7 A. Michael did.

8 Q. The defendant responded: "Not yet, but I expect this
9 resolved this week. Will be good to get you the money. When
10 do you look at the property." What did you understand the
11 defendant to mean when he said "when do you look at the
12 property?"

13 A. Michael knew that I was going to look at a house in
14 Florida, so he was asking when I was going to see it.

15 Q. What, if anything, were you going to do with respect to
16 that house?

17 MR. AVENATTI: Objection, your Honor. Relevance.
18 Speculation.

19 THE COURT: Overruled.

20 A. Live in it.

21 Q. What, if any, funds did you need to purchase that house?

22 A. My third book payment.

23 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please read your response at the
24 bottom?

25 A. "Supposed to next week but not going to book until I have

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 the money."

2 Q. What did you mean by that?

3 A. That I didn't want to buy a plane ticket and travel all the
4 way to Florida and waste money and my time plus my real estate
5 agent's time if I didn't have my third book payment. There was
6 no point to look at property that I didn't have money for.

7 Q. Take a look at the next page.

8 The defendant responded: "Got it." Do you see that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Where here does it say that you're never getting your third
11 book payment because the defendant had already received and
12 spent it?

13 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Argumentative.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 A. It doesn't.

16 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 53.

17 Who are these messages between?

18 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

19 Q. What date were these messages sent?

20 A. January 18, 2019.

21 Q. Please read the first message that you wrote.

22 A. "It's Fri...publisher?"

23 Q. What did you mean by this?

24 A. He would tell me he was going to have an answer by the end
25 of the week, and Friday is the end of the week, so I wanted to

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 hear the answer.

2 Q. Who is he?

3 A. Michael.

4 Q. He had told you that he was going to have an answer about
5 what?

6 A. My third book payment.

7 Q. How had he told you that?

8 A. In a previous text message.

9 Q. Is it a text message --

10 A. Sorry.

11 Q. -- or a phone conversation?

12 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Leading.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

15 Q. The conversation you just referenced, do you recall whether
16 that was a text message or a phone conversation or an in-person
17 conversation, or something else?

18 MR. AVENATTI: Asked and answered.

19 THE COURT: Overruled.

20 A. It was in a WhatsApp message and probably a phone call as
21 well. Resolved by the end of the week sounds to me like I will
22 have an answer for you by the end of the week, and at the end
23 of the week is Friday. So I wanted to hear the answer.

24 Q. That was the last text message we looked at, correct?

25 A. Correct.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Then your next message, can you read that?

2 A. "News?"

3 Q. What did you mean by that?

4 A. Still waiting on that answer.

5 Q. How much time passed between the "it's Fri...publisher?"
6 And your "News" text message?

7 A. Four days, so the weekend plus a day to give him time to
8 reach out to them.

9 Q. And how many messages did the defendant send you between
10 those two messages?

11 A. Zero.

12 Q. Let's go to the next page.

13 The defendant wrote: "Here is what the publisher claims.
14 I have asked for a formal report because I don't believe it.
15 Close to 24,000 hard cover Full Disclosures sold so far with
16 quite a few still out in the field (they believe that book
17 sellers, at least the indies, may feel disloyal returning them)
18 and still to come back at some point (according to them).
19 E-book sales are, of course, final and stand at 9,278 -- the
20 lion's share (6,250) sold at Amazon with something over 1,000
21 sold on iPad and 571 at BN/Nook, of the major e-retailers." Do
22 you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you understand that this message has anything to do with
25 your book advance payments?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. No.

2 Q. Based on your understanding of the contract, do you get
3 paid -- does whether you get paid have anything to do with how
4 many books are sold?

5 A. No, it doesn't have anything to do with it.

6 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 54.

7 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

8 A. They're between myself and Michael Avenatti.

9 Q. And what date were they sent?

10 A. January 31, 2019.

11 Q. Please read the first message you wrote.

12 A. "Speaking of...where is my book money?"

13 Q. What did you mean by "where is my book money?"

14 A. That it's many months late and I still don't have it and I
15 would like to know the whereabouts for my third book payment.

16 Q. The defendant responded: "Call me for an update re book
17 and Florida." Do you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you speak with the defendant shortly after these
20 messages?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. During that conversation, what, if anything, did the
23 defendant say about your third book payment?

24 A. Nothing. He -- nothing, didn't have it, never gave me an
25 answer where it was at.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Just to be clear, did he say he did not have the payment,
2 or did he not say anything about the payment at all?

3 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Leading.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 Q. You may answer.

6 A. I'm sorry. I didn't hear.

7 Q. Let me ask a slightly different question. What happened in
8 the telephone conversation that followed these messages?

9 MR. AVENATTI: Asked and answered.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 A. He didn't tell me that he had the book payment. He said
12 the publisher was still being difficult.

13 MR. SOBELMAN: Please display what's in evidence as
14 Government Exhibit 55 next to Government Exhibit 55A.

15 Q. Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

16 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

17 Q. What date were they sent?

18 A. February 4, 2019.

19 Q. What did you send in this message?

20 A. A screenshot of my banking information.

21 Q. Is this the same as the screenshot of your banking
22 information we saw several messages ago?

23 A. Yes, it is.

24 Q. Why did you send this?

25 A. Just in case he needed it for my payment. It was just

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 another way to nudge, I suppose. He said he was still working
2 on it at this -- at this point I just figured better give it to
3 him than not.

4 Q. And what did you write in the next message?

5 A. "Stormy Entertainment."

6 Q. Why did you write that?

7 A. Because it's not on the screenshot of the banking
8 information. I just wanted to make it very clear that that's
9 also the name on the account, just so there was no questions.

10 Q. How did the defendant respond?

11 A. By saying "thanks."

12 Q. Where in these messages did the defendant explain he'd
13 already received and spent your third book payment?

14 A. He didn't.

15 Q. Around the time of these messages, did you have a telephone
16 conversation with the defendant?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. And on that telephone conversation, what, if anything, did
19 the defendant say about receiving a late check?

20 A. He said that they may send another check, like they did
21 before, and that there were -- strangely, they were talking
22 about making a deal, offering to pay me both the third book
23 payment and the fourth for a lower amount -- a settle -- a
24 settlement, like a compromise.

25 Q. Just explain that to us, if you can.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. I was owed my third book payment. It was at this point
2 four months late, and I knew that I had a fourth payment coming
3 up soon. Michael had multiple times told me that they were
4 displeased with the book sales and the amount of press I did,
5 even though I provided them an extensive press list of things I
6 had done, appearances and television shows and whatnot, and
7 that it didn't say anywhere in my contract that my payments
8 were contingent upon how many sales the book made; that would
9 it be OK to accept one lump sum that was lower than those two
10 payments and just to be basically prepared, because we didn't
11 know how that might come, because once before, they had mailed
12 a check.

13 Q. Who told you all of that?

14 A. Michael did.

15 Q. Did anyone else from the publisher or the book agent or
16 anyone else ever tell you that that might be a possibility?

17 A. No. I couldn't get either of them on the phone, ever.

18 Q. And so just to be clear, the defendant told you you might
19 have to accept less than the full amount of the contract, is
20 that correct?

21 A. He asked if I'd be open to it.

22 Q. And what did you say in response?

23 A. Hell, no.

24 Q. Why did you say hell, no?

25 A. Because we had a written agreement, and they -- I felt like

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 they had been jerking me around so long, I had zero patience
2 left.

3 Q. Why did you feel that they, which I believe is the
4 publisher, had been jerking you around?

5 A. Because Michael told me that the publisher had not sent the
6 payment, and I hadn't heard differently from anyone else. So I
7 believed him.

8 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 56.

9 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

10 A. They are between myself and Michael Avenatti.

11 Q. What date were they sent?

12 A. February 7, 2019.

13 Q. Please read the message you sent.

14 A. "Did that check show up?"

15 Q. What were you referring to when wrote "did that check show
16 up?"

17 A. My book payment.

18 Q. Is that a reference to the conversation you just recounted
19 for us?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 Q. The defendant responded: "Great op-ed, by the way" --
22 B-T-W, exclamation point. Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What do you understand that was a reference to?

25 A. He was complimenting me on an editorial I had written for a

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 publication.

2 Q. Did that editorial have anything to do with your book
3 advance payments?

4 A. Absolutely not.

5 Q. Did the defendant ever actually respond to the message "did
6 that check show up?"

7 A. No, he didn't.

8 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 57.

9 Who is this a message to?

10 A. Michael.

11 Q. Who wrote it?

12 A. I did.

13 Q. What is the date of this message?

14 A. February 9, 2019.

15 Q. Please read what you wrote.

16 A. "Guessing check wasn't there."

17 Q. What was this a reference to?

18 A. That they -- Michael had told me that perhaps they had
19 mailed a check, like they did once before. I asked him for an
20 update a couple days before, and I figured no response when it
21 wasn't there.

22 Q. Just to be clear, when you say the publisher mailed a check
23 once before, who told you that it happened?

24 A. Michael did.

25 Q. Do you know if that's true?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. I don't.

2 Q. I should say did you know if that was true at the time?

3 MR. AVENATTI: Objection, your Honor. Asked and
4 answered.

5 THE COURT: I think it's important to clarify it.

6 Just to be clear, did you know at that time whether
7 that was true?

8 THE WITNESS: I didn't. I believed Michael.

9 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

10 Q. Did the defendant ever respond to this message where you
11 said "guessing check wasn't there"?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 58.

14 Who are these messages between?

15 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

16 Q. What date were they sent?

17 A. February 12, 2019.

18 Q. Ms. Daniels, can you please read the message you wrote?

19 A. "Did you speak to publisher?"

20 Q. The defendant responded: "Yes. Will call shortly. We are
21 resolving." Do you see that?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Do you know if what he wrote was true? I'm sorry.

24 Did you know if what he wrote was true at the time you
25 received this?

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you have a conversation with the defendant after this
3 message?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what, if anything, did the defendant say in that
6 conversation about your third book payment?

7 A. Nothing, that he was still working on it for me.

8 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 59.

9 Ms. Daniels, can you please read the first message that --
10 sorry. Let me take a step back.

11 Who are these messages between?

12 A. Myself and Michael Avenatti.

13 Q. What date were they sent?

14 A. February 13 at 2000 -- sorry. February 13, 2019.

15 Q. Can you please read the first message you wrote?

16 A. "I did not receive a wire today. I just sent a text to
17 Sally and every single other person at the publisher and will
18 continue to do so every hour until I am paid."

19 Q. What did you mean by "I did not receive a wire today"?

20 A. That I had not received my third book payment.

21 Q. What is a wire?

22 A. A bank transfer.

23 Q. Who is Sally?

24 A. Sally Richardson. She worked -- or she's one of my
25 contacts at St. Martin Press.

MlrWave5

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Please read the second message you wrote here.

2 A. "I'm giving them 24 hours and then I will start tweeting
3 and talking to press. Fuck them."

4 (Continued on next page)

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M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Why did you write that?

2 A. Because I was very, very upset and completely out of
3 patience. I thought they were refusing to uphold the contract
4 and basically playing games with me and with my attorney, so I
5 was going to go public.

6 Q. Who, if anyone, had told you that they -- they being the
7 publisher -- had not paid your third book payment as of
8 February 13, 2019?

9 A. Well, Michael and my empty bank account.

10 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 224.

11 If you could please take a look at the bottom of the page.
12 Just remind us, who wrote this message?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. Who did you write it to?

15 A. Elizabeth.

16 Q. Who is Elizabeth?

17 A. One of my -- another one of my contacts at St. Martin's
18 Press.

19 Q. What date was this message sent?

20 A. February 13, 2019.

21 Q. Please read the message.

22 A. "Hi, Elizabeth. This is Stormy Daniels. I am very
23 confused why I have not been paid per my contract with your
24 company. I've been lied to repeatedly about this and want to
25 hear directly from you when I will be receiving my check."

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. At that time, based on what you knew then, who, if anyone,
2 did you believe may have lied to you?

3 A. Michael.

4 Q. Why did you think that?

5 A. Because multiple times he said it was being resolved, or I
6 would have an answer by the end of the week, or there was
7 probably a check in the mail, and nothing came. So someone was
8 being dishonest and I wanted to find out who.

9 Q. Let's go back to Government Exhibit 59, taking a look at
10 the second page.

11 Ms. Daniels, what is the date on these messages?

12 A. February 14, 2019.

13 Q. Would you please read the first message?

14 A. "30 minutes till morning is over and still no wire. I have
15 an interview in an hour and will be discussing how authors
16 should never do business with Macmillan."

17 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "30 minutes till morning
18 is over and still no wire"?

19 A. That I told him that they would have that morning to pay me
20 before I went public.

21 Q. Who is "him"?

22 A. Michael. Sorry.

23 Q. Please read the next message.

24 A. "My interview is here. Just sent final warning to Sally.
25 Fuck them."

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Let's keep going.

2 Please read your next message.

3 A. "Also ... there are reporters at my bus asking about you
4 losing your company and how my files/money was seized. WTF is
5 going on?"

6 Q. Please read the next message.

7 A. "I will be speaking to an attorney tomorrow with literary
8 experience about moving forward with suing Macmillan."

9 Q. Why did you write that you were considering suing
10 Macmillan?

11 A. Because I had not received my payment, and they were very
12 far in breach of contract.

13 Q. Why did you believe that they had breached their contract?

14 A. Because I had not received payment.

15 Q. Who told you that the payment had not been paid?

16 A. Well, Michael, but I didn't need anyone to tell me, I
17 didn't have it.

18 Q. Let's keep going.

19 The defendant responded, "You are not at all affected.
20 This is nonsense. It's my old firm that we haven't used in
21 your case. It has no bearing on you."

22 Before we read the last message on the page, what did you
23 understand the defendant's message to be referring to?

24 A. The fact that I told him reporters were at my bus, my tour
25 bus for clarification, asking a bunch of questions about things

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 going on with Michael.

2 Q. Did this message respond at all to any of the messages
3 above about your book payment?

4 A. No.

5 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence.

6 THE COURT: I will sustain the objection and the jury
7 will disregard the answer.

8 Q. Where in this message did the defendant respond and say
9 anything about your book payments?

10 MR. AVENATTI: Same objection, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 A. He didn't.

13 Q. Let's go down to the next message.

14 The defendant wrote, in quotes, "'It's Michael's old
15 firm. They never represented me. I'm represented by Avenatti
16 & Associates and always have been. Check the case filings. It
17 has nothing to do with me. My case is not affected. This is a
18 big nothing burger.'"

19 What, if anything, did you understand the defendant to be
20 trying to communicate to you by sending you this quote?

21 A. This was the statement that he wrote that he wanted me to
22 tell the press in response to all the questions they were
23 asking. He ignored all of my stuff and only cared about what
24 they were asking about him.

25 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, move to strike the last

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 sentence as nonresponsive.

2 THE COURT: Granted. The jury will disregard the last
3 sentence of that answer.

4 Q. Ms. Daniels, where in this message did the defendant say
5 anything about your book payments?

6 A. He didn't.

7 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence, your Honor.

8 A. He didn't. This is simply a quote for press.

9 Q. Let's go to the next page.

10 Ms. Daniels, please read your next two messages.

11 A. "OK. Now. Find my fucking money."

12 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "find my fucking money"?

13 A. It's not in my account. Please tell me where it's at.

14 Q. What money were you referring to?

15 A. My third book payment.

16 Q. Let's scroll down and see the defendant's response.

17 He wrote, "Word" with, is that six exclamation points?

18 A. Maybe seven.

19 Q. What did you understand the defendant to mean when he wrote
20 "word" with six exclamation points?

21 A. Affirmative. Very affirmative.

22 Q. Where in this message does the defendant say he already
23 received and spent your money?

24 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Overruled.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 A. It doesn't.

2 Q. Let's take a look at Government Exhibit 60.

3 Ms. Daniels, who are these messages between?

4 A. Michael Avenatti and myself.

5 Q. What is the date these messages were sent?

6 A. February 15, 2019.

7 Q. The defendant wrote, "I have good news re the book. I can
8 call you in about two hours."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. He then wrote, "Just got out. Can you call me?"

12 Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. He then wrote, "Trying to reach you. Can you call me?
15 Thanks."

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. He then wrote, "Can you give me a call re the book
19 payments, etc."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. He then wrote, "Been trying to reach you since Friday re
23 the book payments, etc. Please get back to me. Thanks."

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Ms. Daniels, why did you not respond to the defendant
2 between February 15 and February 18, 2019?

3 A. Because I had spoken to the publisher.

4 Q. What, if anything, did you learn from the publisher?

5 A. That Michael had been lying and stealing from me, and that
6 my payments were sent months before.

7 MR. SOBELMAN: Scroll down, please.

8 If we can put this page, which is the second page of
9 Government Exhibit 60, up next to Government Exhibit 60A.

10 Q. Ms. Daniels, what did you send in this message?

11 A. I sent him another copy of my book contract.

12 Q. Why did you do that?

13 A. Because I wanted to circle a part and send it to him.

14 Q. Which part did you circle?

15 A. The part about my third payment, when it was due and the
16 amount.

17 MR. SOBELMAN: Now, please, put up Government Exhibit
18 60B instead of 60A.

19 Q. What did you send to the defendant next?

20 A. The dates that Macmillan had sent my payments and how they
21 sent them.

22 Q. Where did you receive what is screen-shotted in 60B from?

23 A. From the literary agent's secretary.

24 Q. Why did you send that to the defendant?

25 A. So that it was perfectly clear that I knew what he had

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 done.

2 Q. Let's take a look at the next message.

3 Ms. Daniels, please read what you wrote here on February
4 19, 2019?

5 A. "I never received this payment that was sent to you. Last
6 payment you gave me was number two via a check you deposited on
7 September 5th."

8 Q. Why did you write this?

9 A. Because it was all true. This was proof that they sent him
10 my payments, or that my payments were sent from the publisher
11 and that Michael had received them, and the dates that he
12 received them. It was just a continuation of my last text to
13 him that I knew that he had been lying to me and he had stolen
14 my money.

15 Q. Let's go to the third page of Government Exhibit 60.

16 Ms. Daniels, please read the top message that you sent to
17 the defendant.

18 A. "I didn't even know you had a trust account with my name on
19 it."

20 Q. Why did you write that?

21 A. Because the payment of my book payment wasn't -- it was
22 sent to a trust account that I had never heard of; it wasn't
23 this check that Michael claimed had come in the mail.

24 Q. Just to be clear, at any point during the time the
25 defendant was your lawyer, did he ever tell you that he had a

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 trust account in your name?

2 A. Absolutely not.

3 Q. Did he ever give you an accounting of the money that came
4 into or went out of that trust account?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did he ever ask you for permission before spending money
7 out of that trust account?

8 A. No.

9 Q. The defendant responded, "Let me find out if we even
10 received this payment."

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Where in that message does the defendant say, I have
14 documentation of this payment, I received it and I spent it?

15 A. Nowhere.

16 Q. Let's keep going.

17 Ms. Daniels, can you please read this message.

18 A. "Here is the wire proof. You also waited over 30 days to
19 give me payment number two. You've had payment number three
20 for over five months. Last payment, which is number four, is
21 not due quite yet."

22 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "here is the wire proof"?

23 A. It was in reference to the screenshot that I sent to him
24 that proved Janklow, the literary agent, had sent him the money
25 that he said let me see if we could find it. You don't need to

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 find it. Here it is. You had it. You're lying.

2 Q. You wrote, "You also waited over 30 days to give me payment
3 number two." What did you mean by that?

4 A. That according to the documentation I received from the
5 literary agent, Michael lied to me for over 30 days saying that
6 they hadn't sent that payment either, but he in fact had
7 received it.

8 Q. What did you mean when you wrote "you've had payment number
9 three for over five months"?

10 A. That they had sent the payment on time, with no question,
11 and he lied to me almost every day for five months.

12 Q. You then wrote, "Last payment, which is number four, is not
13 due quite yet."

14 What did you mean by that?

15 A. Just wanted to clear up any confusion, that I was only
16 talking about the ones that were already late, that I wasn't
17 looking for payment number four or additional money because
18 that time period hadn't come up yet, the due date.

19 Q. Let's keep going.

20 MR. SOBELMAN: Can we please put up Government Exhibit
21 60C next to this.

22 Q. Ms. Daniels, did you then send another attachment?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 Q. What was in this attachment?

25 A. It was additional proof. It was the actual screenshot with

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 the account -- the receipts, the account numbers. It was the
2 official one, not just the one typed from the literary agent.
3 They sent me the actual banking receipt that proved they had
4 transferred the wire.

5 Q. Why did you send this to the defendant?

6 A. Mic drop.

7 Q. What do you mean by mic drop?

8 A. There is no denying this came from a banking establishment.
9 I am tired of your lies, just stop, come clean.

10 Q. Let's read what the defendant said next.

11 The defendant responded, "Let me find out what is going
12 on."

13 Do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Where in this message does it say, I received and spent
16 your money?

17 A. It doesn't say that anywhere.

18 Q. Where in this message does it say, I received your money
19 and I think I'm entitled to it?

20 A. Nowhere.

21 Q. Just to be clear, the documents that you sent him, those
22 you got, you said, from the literary agency, right?

23 MR. AVENATTI: Objection. Leading.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 Mr. Sobelman, can we just take a two-minute just to

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 let people stand and stretch and push through the end of the
2 day.

3 MR. SOBELMAN: Of course, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, if you want to just
5 stand up and stretch for a minute or so, and then we will carry
6 on.

7 I have a new plan, which is that we are actually going
8 to take a very short recess of about five minutes just to allow
9 folks to use the restroom. For that reason, I am going to have
10 my clerks escort the jury out through this door here, so if the
11 government can move its chairs forward, please. There are some
12 restrooms back there that the jury can use. Please maintain
13 social distancing when you're there. And we will pick up in a
14 couple of minutes. Just wait in there when you're ready.

15 With that, everyone please rise.

16 (Jury exits courtroom)

17 (Continued on next page)

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 THE COURT: You may be seated.

2 Ms. Daniels, if you want to step down, you can also
3 use the restroom, and we will pick up in a couple of minutes.
4 I will stay on the bench while we wait.

5 Mr. Avenatti, I thought you needed to --

6 MR. AVENATTI: I do, but I didn't want to disrespect
7 your Honor.

8 THE COURT: You're welcome to go as well. Just be
9 back in a couple of minutes.

10 Counsel, if we can begin to get ready, I expect we
11 will get started shortly.

12 Everybody in your places, please.

13 Mr. Sobelman, any idea how much longer you have on
14 direct.

15 MR. SOBELMAN: Maybe by the end of the day, but may
16 not.

17 THE COURT: All right. The jury will be entering in a
18 moment.

19 (Continued on next page)

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M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Everybody may be seated.

3 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate your
4 being prompt, and we will continue with the direct examination
5 of Ms. Daniels.

6 Ms. Daniels, you remain under oath.

7 Mr. Sobelman, you may proceed.

8 MR. SOBELMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

9 BY MR. SOBELMAN:

10 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recall before the break we were going
11 over some text messages that you and the defendant exchanged on
12 February 19, 2019?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I believe the last message we read was the defendant
15 stating, "Let me find out what is going on"?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you recall where you received the
18 attachments that you sent in these messages, who you received
19 them from?

20 A. Oh, they were an e-mail from the literary agent's office.

21 Q. Did the defendant ever provide you a copy of those
22 documents?

23 A. No.

24 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's go down to the message on the
25 following page.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Actually, before we do that, let's take a look at
2 Government Exhibit 238.

3 Q. Ms. Daniels, who sent this e-mail?

4 A. Luke Janklow's assistant. I am not really sure what
5 Claire's job title is.

6 Q. Who did she send it to?

7 A. To me.

8 Q. Who is copied on the e-mail?

9 A. Luke Janklow.

10 Q. What is the subject line?

11 A. Payment details.

12 Q. Were there any attachments to this e-mail?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is the date that you received this e-mail?

15 A. February 19, 2019.

16 Q. What was your reaction when you received this e-mail?

17 A. Very, very angry, shocked, disbelief, hurt, and I felt very
18 betrayed and stupid.

19 Q. Who, if anyone, were you angry with?

20 A. Michael.

21 Q. The e-mail reads, "Dear Stormy: Just back in the office
22 after the holiday weekend and, further to our conversation
23 Friday, Luke asked me to send you this pertinent information."

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Then it says, "Your payout schedule:"

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. SOBELMAN: Let's just zoom out for a minute.

5 Q. Just generally, what follows here?

6 A. An outline of when and how much I was paid from the
7 publisher through my literary agent, minus his percentage, of
8 course.

9 Q. After the number 1, what information is there?

10 A. It says that I received my payment, minus his fee, of
11 course, transferred to my account on the date that it was
12 supposed to, the day I signed my contract, which was April 11.

13 Q. And we talked about that day at the beginning of your
14 testimony, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That was the day you had a call with the defendant?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What is after number 2?

19 A. After 2, it says that Luke received my payment from the
20 publisher on August 3rd and forwarded my amount, minus his
21 percentage, of course, to a California account that I had never
22 heard of.

23 Q. Let's take a look at the next one.

24 What does this one show?

25 A. This is in regards to payment number three, that was sent

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 to Michael, to that account that I had never heard of, minus
2 Luke's fee, of course, and that it was actually, according to
3 this, sent early.

4 Q. What, if any, reaction did you have to learning that your
5 payment was actually sent early?

6 A. I don't know if there is a word stronger than furious, but
7 that would be it. And shock.

8 Q. Let's take a look at the next page.

9 And the next one after that.

10 Is this an attachment to the e-mail we were just looking
11 at?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Before you received this e-mail from Mr. Janklow's
14 assistant, had you ever seen this document before?

15 A. Absolutely not.

16 Q. Had you ever heard about this document before?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Is that your signature?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. Did you sign this document?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Let's go to the next page.

23 These are the attachments to the e-mail from Mr. Janklow's
24 assistant?

25 A. Yes.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Are these some of the same documents that you
2 screen-shotted that we talked about before?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What do these documents show?

5 A. These are directly from the bank proving what Claire had
6 sent me was factual. That the payments were sent and cleared,
7 what date, how much, where, those things.

8 Q. Let's just take a look at one of those. Let's go three
9 pages further, so I think it's page 8 -- sorry, 7.

10 Ms. Daniels, what is the wire date listed here?

11 A. September 17.

12 Q. Of what year?

13 A. 2018.

14 Q. What is the wire amount?

15 A. \$148,750.

16 Q. What account was the wire sent to?

17 A. An Avenatti & Associates attorney-client trust.

18 Q. At any point after September 17, 2018, were you provided a
19 letter or list or other documentation about this money going
20 into a trust account in your name?

21 A. No.

22 Q. At any point after September 17, 2018, were you provided
23 with any documentation or notification about any of this money
24 being spent out of that trust account?

25 A. No.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. At any point, were you asked to authorize money being spent
2 out of that trust account?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you even told of the existence of this account?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Let's go back to Government Exhibit 60, page 4.

7 And if we could put up next to it 60D, as in dog.

8 Ms. Daniels, is this the last message you sent in that
9 string that we looked at earlier?

10 A. Yes, it is.

11 Q. What did you write here in title on the left side of the
12 screen?

13 A. "I have retained Clark Brewster. Here is his contact
14 details. You can reach out to him directly." And I attached
15 Clark Brewster's contact information.

16 Q. Who is Clark Brewster?

17 A. My current attorney.

18 Q. Why did you send this to the defendant?

19 A. Because I didn't want to hear another word that Michael
20 Avenatti had to say, that he could talk directly to my new
21 attorney.

22 MR. SOBELMAN: Please display what is in evidence as
23 Government Exhibit 4.

24 Q. What is the date on this letter?

25 A. February 19, 2019.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Is that the same day as the messages we just read?

2 A. Yes, it is.

3 Q. Who is this letter sent to?

4 A. It's sent to me.

5 Q. Who is this letter sent by?

6 A. Michael Avenatti.

7 Q. Can you please read the first paragraph of the letter?

8 A. "Dear Stormy: I have attempted to contact you repeatedly
9 to discuss a multitude of issues, including the book proceeds
10 and payments, your allegations against, the situation with your
11 termination of your security detail, and the status of the
12 Columbus litigation and our attempts at settlement.
13 Unfortunately, you have not been responsive."

14 Q. During the few days before you received this letter, just
15 those few days, were you responsive to the defendant?

16 A. During those days?

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. No.

19 Q. Why not?

20 A. Because I knew he was lying to me and I wanted to secure
21 new counsel.

22 Q. Before that time, before you found out the defendant was
23 lying to you, were you responsive to the defendant generally?

24 A. Yes. We talked almost daily.

25 Q. Let's take a look at the next paragraph.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Ms. Daniels, if you could read starting with "after much"
2 and end with "financial issues," about half way down the
3 paragraph.

4 A. Yes.

5 "After much contemplation and deliberation, we have
6 decided to terminate our representation of you effective
7 immediately. This decision is not one we make lightly.
8 Unfortunately, however, we believe that we cannot continue to
9 effectively advocate on your behalf in light of your lack of
10 communication and responsiveness as to time-sensitive matters,
11 including financial issues."

12 Keep on?

13 Q. No.

14 Aside from the few days that we just talked about before
15 this letter was sent, were you ever not responsive to the
16 defendant about financial issues?

17 A. No.

18 Q. In the messages that we reviewed today, who, if anyone,
19 initiated the conversations about the book payments?

20 A. I did.

21 Q. Let's go down and read the third paragraph now.

22 Would you please read the first sentence of the third
23 paragraph starting with "we will, of course."

24 A. "We will, of course, ensure that any property, moneys,
25 documents, and materials that belong to you and that may remain

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 in our possession will be timely transferred to you or your new
2 counsel as you direct."

3 Q. At any point after you received this letter on February 19,
4 2019, did you receive any money from the defendant or his law
5 firm?

6 A. No, I did not.

7 Q. Were you ever paid your third book payment?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Were you ever paid it by the defendant?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Were you ever paid it by anyone else?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Are there any references in this letter to your book
14 contract?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Are there any references in this letter to your book
17 payments?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Where in this letter did the defendant explain what
20 happened to your second and third book payments?

21 MR. AVENATTI: Best evidence, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 A. He never did.

24 Q. Are there any references in this letter to you owing money
25 to the defendant or his law firm?

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 A. No, there's not.

2 Q. Let's go back to Government Exhibit 60, page 3.

3 Ms. Daniels, you see the messages the defendant sent
4 you where he wrote, "Let me find out if we even received this
5 payment," and, "let me find out what is going on"?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. After that message, "let me find out what is going on," on
8 February 19, 2019, did the defendant ever tell you what was
9 going on?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Have you had any communication with the defendant since
12 February 19, 2019?

13 A. No.

14 MR. SOBELMAN: You can take this down.

15 Q. When the defendant was your lawyer, what, if anything, did
16 he tell you about his personal finances?

17 A. He didn't.

18 Q. When the defendant was your lawyer, what, if anything, did
19 he tell you about his law firm's finances?

20 A. Just that they were great, the law firm.

21 Q. When the defendant was your lawyer, what, if anything, did
22 he tell you about his law firm being evicted from its offices?

23 A. He didn't.

24 Q. When the defendant was your lawyer, what, if anything, did
25 the defendant tell you about his law firm's difficulties paying

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 its employees?

2 A. He didn't.

3 Q. When the defendant was your lawyer, what, if anything, did
4 the defendant tell you about his law firm's difficulties paying
5 its health insurance plan?

6 A. Never mentioned it.

7 Q. I want to shift gears for a moment.

8 Ms. Daniels, earlier in your testimony you mentioned that
9 you are on a TV currently, is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What kind of show is it?

12 A. It's about paranormal activity.

13 Q. What is paranormal activity?

14 A. Ghost hunting.

15 Q. What is the TV show's name?

16 A. Spooky Babes.

17 Q. Spooky Babes?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Why is it called Spooky Babes?

20 A. We went with spooky instead of ghost because we also do
21 historical stuff. It's not just ghosts, it's legends of
22 vampires and other things, so we went with spooky instead of
23 ghost. And babes because it's attractive people.

24 Q. Including you?

25 A. Yes. Thanks for making me sound conceited.

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 Q. Approximately how long have you been a cast member on that
2 show?

3 A. It will be two years in March.

4 Q. Just to be clear, were you a cast member on that show when
5 the defendant was your lawyer?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Even before you started with Spooky Babes, did you have an
8 interest in paranormal activity and things like that?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. In addition to your role on Spooky Babes, what are some of
11 the other things you have done for work over the past few
12 years?

13 A. I have directed some music videos. I have written some
14 articles and scripts. I read tarot cards for entertainment for
15 my fans. I do some modeling. I do have my website and
16 royalties and stuff from that. And I work on some messaging
17 apps that pay me for video chats.

18 Q. I only have a few more questions and then I think we will
19 be done.

20 After the defendant was charged in this case, did you make
21 any public statements about him?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What types of statements did you make?

24 A. Angry ones.

25 Q. Did you actually -- did you say that you wanted bad things

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Direct

1 to happen to him?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you once say you hope he gets raped in prison?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you actually hope that happens to him?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Why did you say those things?

8 A. Because he lied to me and betrayed both my trust, and I
9 thought he was my friend. I felt violated.

10 Q. Do you still feel that way today?

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. I think I only have one last topic.

13 Are you familiar with something called the attorney-client
14 privilege?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What is your understanding of the attorney-client
17 privilege?

18 A. Things you say to your attorney they can't repeat.

19 Q. After the defendant stopped being your lawyer, did there
20 come a time when you waived any privilege regarding your
21 conversations and communications with him?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Why did you waive any privilege regarding your
24 conversations and communications with the defendant?

25 A. Because I had nothing to hide and I wanted the truth to

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 come out, and I didn't want anybody to feel the way that he
2 made me feel.

3 Q. Did you later share the communications and conversations
4 you had with the defendant with law enforcement?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Why did you do that?

7 A. Because, once again, I had nothing to hide and I wanted
8 justice to be served. I wanted everyone to know.

9 MR. SOBELMAN: One moment, your Honor.

10 No further questions, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Cross-examination.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. AVENATTI:

14 Q. Ms. Daniels, good afternoon.

15 A. Good afternoon.

16 Q. The government asked you repeatedly whether particular
17 texts said that I had taken your money. Do you recall that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You don't recall the prosecutor just asking you repeatedly
20 whether particular texts that I had sent to you stated that I
21 had taken your money?

22 A. They asked if you told me you took it, and I said no.

23 Q. Ms. Daniels, do you have a single text message, e-mail,
24 voice mail, or recording that says I would not take any money
25 from your book deal, yes or no?

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 A. No.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, can you just move your
3 microphone a little closer so we can all hear you.

4 Thank you.

5 Q. Breaching a contract is a very big deal to you, isn't it?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Ms. Daniels, how was I supposed to get paid for all of the
8 work that I and my law firm did for you over the course of 12
9 months?

10 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 A. From a legal defense fund and from winnings against Donald
13 Trump.

14 Q. Any other ways?

15 A. Not that we agreed upon.

16 Q. And it's your testimony, is it not, that I was supposed to
17 get a percentage of anything that you won in your lawsuits
18 against Donald Trump, is that true?

19 A. That's what you said, yes.

20 Q. That was your understanding, right?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Now, let's clear up something right now, if we could.

23 I never told you that I would work for one dollar, did I?

24 A. No, you did not.

25 Q. And if someone were to come before this jury and tell them

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 that I told you that I would work for one dollar, that would be
2 untrue, wouldn't it?

3 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

4 THE COURT: Sustained.

5 Q. Ms. Daniels, you're not aware of any point in time where I
6 told you or agreed with you that I would work for one dollar,
7 are you?

8 A. You never mentioned one dollar to me, no.

9 Q. Now, you pride yourself on always telling the truth,
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And everything in your book is 100 percent true, right?

13 A. To my knowledge, yes.

14 Q. And the words in the book are your words?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And just like in your book, when you post something on
17 Twitter or on your Instagram account, people can trust what you
18 say, right?

19 A. Unless they know I'm kidding or it's a joke, yes.

20 Q. But your statements are honest statements, are they not?

21 A. To the best of my knowledge.

22 Q. Because you always tell the truth, just like you are here
23 today, correct?

24 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.

25 Q. And just like in your book, when you give an interview,

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 whether it be on CNN or some podcast or YouTube video, you
2 don't lie, do you?

3 A. Not to the best of my knowledge.

4 Q. And you shook your head no, you don't lie, do you?

5 A. No. I make mistakes.

6 Q. And you have claimed that you have a perfect memory,
7 haven't you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you have claimed that you have a photographic memory as
10 well, haven't you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you have also claimed that you have the ability to see
13 and speak to dead people, haven't you?

14 A. Yes, I have said that.

15 Q. And you also claim to have the ability to have x-ray vision
16 and to be able to look into residences from the outside with
17 your vision, haven't you?

18 A. That's not x-ray vision.

19 Q. And you have also claimed that you have the ability to
20 speak with a haunted doll named Susan, who you speak to and she
21 speaks back to you, isn't that true?

22 A. Susan speaks to everyone on the show; she is a character on
23 Spooky Babes.

24 Q. Isn't it true, Ms. Daniels, that you have claimed that you
25 have the ability to speak to the doll and that she speaks back

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 to you, yes or no?

2 A. Yes. She even has her own Instagram.

3 MR. AVENATTI: Move to strike everything after "yes"
4 as nonresponsive.

5 THE COURT: We will leave it.

6 Next question.

7 MR. AVENATTI: Could I have GX 3, please.

8 THE WITNESS: My screen is dark.

9 THE COURT: I think they all are at the moment.

10 Q. Let me ask you a question while we are waiting for that to
11 be fixed.

12 Here it is.

13 Do you have Exhibit 3, Ms. Daniels?

14 A. Is that the attorney-client fee contract?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I see it.

17 Q. Before you signed this document, you read it, right?

18 A. Of course.

19 Q. And you say of course because you always read contracts
20 very carefully before you sign them?

21 A. I try my best.

22 Q. Well, that's what you do, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Before you signed it, you understood the contract, am I
25 right?

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You then signed the contract, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you received a copy of the contract on multiple
5 occasions, did you not?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you generally know what a contract means because you
8 have signed hundreds of contracts?

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. And, in fact, you have in the past mocked other people for
11 not reading or following their contracts, isn't that true?

12 MR. SOBELMAN: Objection.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 You can answer it.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you please point the jury to the portion of the
17 contract where it states that me and my firm would advance all
18 of the costs associated with your legal representation?

19 A. It says one-time payment and that you will take fees -- my
20 screen went black. I'm sorry. I can't read it.

21 THE COURT: Do you want the full document as well?

22 THE WITNESS: It's back.

23 Q. Do you have it, Ms. Daniels?

24 A. Yeah. I'm sorry. It came back on.

25 Q. Where does it say that me and my firm will pay all of the

M1R8AVE6

Clifford - Cross

1 costs associated with your representation?

2 A. Well, the legal fees and costs are pretty outlined in
3 number 4, where it outlines all of that. It says one-time
4 payment of \$100, which I made. And you bought lunch for me.

5 Then it says hourly fees, out-of-pocket costs, legal
6 defense fund. If it has sufficient funds to pay for such fees
7 and costs, that's how you were going to get paid.

8 Q. So that's your interpretation of paragraph 4, correct?

9 A. Absolutely. Which is why I asked for an accounting.

10 MR. AVENATTI: Move to strike everything after
11 "absolutely" as nonresponsive, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: We will leave it.

13 Ms. Daniels, just answer the question, and if there is
14 a need to follow up, I am sure government counsel will do that
15 on redirect.

16 Q. Ms. Daniels, could you please read paragraph 3 into the
17 record for the benefit of the jury?

18 A. "Clients's duties. Clients agree to be truthful with
19 attorney, to cooperate, keep attorney informed of developments,
20 to abide by this agreement, and to pay bills for reasonably
21 incurred costs on time."

22 Q. Now, was this contract ever modified in any way?

23 A. No.

24 THE COURT: That brings us to 3:00 and the end of our
25 day.

M1R8AVE6

1 Ladies and gentlemen, usual reminders. Number one,
2 please don't discuss the case with each other or with anyone
3 else. Please don't read anything about the case. I want to
4 underscore, if you see anything on the news, you hear anything
5 on the news, you see anything online, do not read it, close it,
6 turn the page, whatever you need to do to avoid being exposed
7 to anything about this case while you are sitting on the jury.
8 Do not do any research about the case, investigate anyone
9 involved in it, anything of that sort, as you know. And please
10 continue to keep an open mind. We are making progress, but you
11 still have not heard all the evidence in the case so please
12 keep an open mind.

13 With that, you are excused for the evening. Have a
14 good afternoon and night.

15 One quick word. Lest anyone worries, I am monitoring
16 the weather forecast. I know there is a storm, no pun
17 intended, coming tomorrow at some point. I think it's probably
18 going to be OK -- not for everybody -- to get home safely, but
19 I will obviously monitor that and ensure that everybody can get
20 home safely.

21 With that, have a pleasant afternoon and evening, and
22 we will see you tomorrow morning usual time.

23 (Jury exits courtroom)

24 (Continued on next page)

25 THE COURT: You may be seated.

M1R8AVE6

1 Ms. Daniels, before you go, let me just give you an
2 instruction that, because you are now on cross-examination, you
3 are not permitted to communicate with the representatives of
4 the government, the lawyers or agents, about anything relating
5 to the substance of your testimony. Logistics are fine, but
6 not the substance of it. I know you have counsel. You are
7 permitted to speak with him, but he may not speak with the
8 government and serve as an intermediary for you and the
9 government.

10 With that, please be here by 9:00 tomorrow. I think
11 there is a witness room out there, and you can wait in there
12 until we are ready for you and ready to go. And I wish you a
13 pleasant afternoon and evening. Thank you very much. And you
14 are excused. Watch your step, please.

15 All right. Anything to raise from the government?

16 MR. PODOLSKY: Nothing of substance. I just want to,
17 I suppose, just explain witness order and where we are in the
18 case so that we can see what is coming.

19 I know the defendant referenced six hours of
20 cross-examination this morning. I don't know if it's going to
21 be six hours. But if not, we intend to call Elizabeth Beier
22 from St. Martin's Press. I think we estimate maybe an hour,
23 give or take, on direct examination. At the moment, our final
24 witness will be Shamel Medrano, who is an analyst in our
25 office. And on that note, I just want to flag, essentially,

M1R8AVE6

1 the function of that testimony will be to lay the foundation
2 for an offer of a summary chart, which is essentially a
3 timeline of the various communications and other items in this
4 case. I have spoken with standby counsel just to sort of flag
5 that it would be helpful to the government and the Court, if
6 the defense has any objections to the chart, to raise them
7 ahead of time. The reason I put this on the record is I just
8 don't want to have essentially the difficulty of trying to
9 change the chart or deal with objections right before the
10 witness takes the stand.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 Mr. Avenatti, have you had a chance to review that?
13 It's Government Exhibit 804, I believe.

14 MR. AVENATTI: Your Honor, I have not had a chance to
15 review it. I am happy to do so tonight.

16 I would like to also be heard, if you would like to
17 hear from me, relating to the scope of cross-examination and
18 duration.

19 THE COURT: We will get to that in one second.

20 With respect to this chart, I want you to advise the
21 government if you have any objections or suggestions with
22 respect to it. I will give you until 7:00 tonight. If you
23 don't lodge an objection by that time, then I will treat any
24 objections as waived. If you do, you should be prepared to
25 address them tomorrow morning. And I assume the government

M1R8AVE6

1 will be prepared to deal with whatever my rulings are on any
2 objections.

3 Anything else from the government?

4 MR. PODOLSKY: No, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, with respect to the scope of
6 cross, I guess my question to you is, do you have any
7 authority, as I discussed earlier, for the proposition that I
8 can require you to ask any questions of Ms. Daniels on cross
9 giving you appropriate latitude to ask things that may go
10 beyond the scope?

11 MR. AVENATTI: I have not had a chance to research it,
12 your Honor. It's number one on my list as soon as I leave here
13 momentarily.

14 THE COURT: So, please do, and you can certainly bring
15 it to my attention tonight by letter if you find anything. But
16 I think it's fairly common practice to handle it that way,
17 which is to say that I think it's appropriate for her to
18 testify once and only once, recognizing that if something
19 arises after she steps off the stand and there is a reason that
20 you weren't able to ask her on the stand, that you may be able
21 to recall her. But absent that scenario, I think it's more
22 appropriate to inquire of her while you have her here at the
23 moment. So if you find authority that suggests that's not
24 within my authority, I am certainly happy to consider it, but
25 otherwise you should plan your cross-examination accordingly.

M1R8AVE6

1 I would also urge you to take the evening and perhaps
2 cut back on the cross-examination. Sometimes less is more, and
3 it's my experience that it's almost always the case on
4 cross-examination. I think six hours for a direct that lasted
5 only about three hours is not likely to be productive for
6 anybody. So I would urge you to pare it back as much as you
7 can, but obviously you should do whatever you need to do to try
8 your case.

9 Anything else you wish to say?

10 (Continued on next page)

MlrWave7

1 MR. AVENATTI: Yes, your Honor. Two things.

2 Obviously, the government has had consistent access to
3 this witness over the last three years. We have not. I have
4 not. So the government was able to tailor their direct through
5 cooperation of the witness during the many meetings they had
6 with the witness, so I don't have that benefit, obviously.
7 That's No. 1.

8 THE COURT: That is how trials generally work, Mr.
9 Avenatti.

10 MR. AVENATTI: Yes.

11 THE COURT: OK.

12 MR. AVENATTI: No. Understood, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: OK.

14 MR. AVENATTI: No. 2, your Honor, the government just
15 conducted the direct where they had Ms. Daniels testify --

16 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, I'm not interested in a
17 discourse on the trial. Do you have an application, or is
18 there something you're asking me for?

19 MR. AVENATTI: I do not have -- well, I do actually
20 have one application, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Great. Let's turn to that. And just
22 speak directly into the microphone, please.

23 MR. AVENATTI: In light of what your Honor ruled
24 yesterday relating to certain financial issues that were off
25 limits, I think that the government's direct today opened the

MlrWave7

1 door to those issues and many more. The government elicited
2 testimony relating to Ms. Daniels's financial condition and her
3 financial position over my objection, which was overruled,
4 relating to her need for the book payment in order to pay for a
5 house and the fact that she couldn't afford the house without
6 the book payment, and she tied her ability to buy the house
7 directly to the book payment.

8 In light of that, that opens the door, your Honor, for
9 me to get into her entire financial situation, her assets, her
10 debts, her income level. I think the government has opened the
11 door to that line of inquiry during the cross-examination of
12 Ms. Daniels. And therefore, I'm seeking permission to explore
13 those areas that were previously excluded, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Avenatti, that's not what I previously
15 excluded. The government's application was to preclude
16 cross-examination on her payment of back taxes, her payment of
17 spousal support and her payment of child support. I granted
18 that application, and nothing the government did today opened
19 door to that. So to the extent that you're asking me to
20 revisit that ruling, the request is denied.

21 I said yesterday that you were entitled within some
22 limits to explore her financial circumstances to the extent
23 that it enables you to argue bias, motive, etc., within limits.
24 But you're not going to get into areas of potential prejudice
25 of that sort. So I'm not revisiting that ruling. But to be

MlrWave7

1 clear, I did not preclude you from inquiring about her
2 financial condition altogether. And you certainly can ask her
3 about the house and the need for money to pay for the house and
4 what have you. The door is certainly open on that front.

5 MR. AVENATTI: The additional application that I would
6 make, your Honor, is earlier today the Court denied my effort
7 to admit exhibit 5, which was the totality of the WhatsApp
8 communications, at least as to that one conversation string. I
9 think the government has now opened the door to me being
10 permitted to place that exhibit into evidence before the jury
11 for the following reasons:

12 The government asked Ms. Daniels on direct whether she
13 was responsive to almost every inquiry that I made over the
14 course of our relationship. They elicited that testimony. And
15 in fact, I wrote it down. They elicited testimony from her
16 that she was never not responsive. So the government has put
17 into evidence now before the jury testimony relating to how
18 responsive Ms. Daniels was, our standard method of
19 communication and how often it occurred, and they have put that
20 directly at issue. And that is borne out, your Honor, within
21 the text messages within exhibit 5. So separate and apart from
22 the other reasons that I had sought to admit exhibit 5 --
23 namely, that they all go to my state of mind during the course
24 of the representation -- I make an application now to admit
25 exhibit 5, because each and every one of those text messages

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1 are either sent to or from me.

2 THE COURT: All right. Well, to the extent the
3 application is to admit the entirety of exhibit 5, it is denied
4 once again for the reasons that I stated earlier. The entirety
5 of it is not relevant even to show what you just described, and
6 the 403 issues are quite significant.

7 To the extent that there is any discrete portion of it
8 that you think demonstrates that she failed to respond to you
9 and a query from you, I'll certainly consider any application
10 to admit that portion of it.

11 You can also, obviously, ask Ms. Daniels about it in
12 your cross-examination, and if she says that she did respond to
13 you in every instance, you're welcome to use exhibit 5 and
14 point her to something and attempt to elicit from her that she
15 didn't. And perhaps that lays the groundwork for a foundation
16 for you to admit that portion of exhibit 5. But you are not
17 going to use that excuse to get in the entirety of your
18 communications over however long the period was of 2,475
19 messages. It's just not happening. OK? So it's not a
20 persuasive argument. All right?

21 MR. AVENATTI: I understand the Court's ruling.

22 THE COURT: Good. Anything else?

23 MR. SOBELMAN: Nothing from the government. Thank
24 you, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right. I don't think we're going to

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1 get to any defense case tomorrow, but for purposes of my
2 preparation of the charge and timing of the charge conference
3 and what have you, Mr. Avenatti, as you sit here now, do you
4 have a thought with respect to your intention to put on a
5 defense case?

6 MR. AVENATTI: I will be putting on a defense case,
7 your Honor. I anticipate that it's going to last two to three
8 days, probably closer to two days.

9 THE COURT: OK. All right. Very good. And I guess
10 because it informs whether we need to have a discussion about
11 the issue that I flagged earlier, as you sit here now, do you
12 anticipate whether you would be testifying on your own behalf?

13 MR. AVENATTI: I have not made that decision yet, your
14 Honor. I'm not being coy. I obviously need to spend a lot of
15 time thinking about that, talking with some people that I trust
16 about it, and I intend on doing so over this weekend.

17 THE COURT: All right. Understood. And I didn't take
18 you to be coy. That is a serious decision and important
19 decision, and you should obviously give it the serious
20 consideration that it warrants.

21 I do want you to both consider how best to conduct
22 that testimony, if it occurs, that would give the government an
23 opportunity to object to any improper testimony. Just
24 spitballing here, but a couple options. One option is to allow
25 Mr. Avenatti -- and obviously, this is all hypothetical until

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1 he makes a decision to testify -- to provide a narrative of his
2 version of events. To the extent that he would do that, I
3 would propose, at a minimum, that he sort of preface each
4 portion by saying I'm now going to describe X, so we know the
5 area and subject matter and the government can lodge an
6 objection on that basis.

7 Alternatively, I know some judges have had a defendant
8 write out the questions that he would answer and have somebody
9 read them. We do have standby counsel here, and standby
10 counsel could be utilized for that purpose and I would give an
11 appropriate instruction to the jury that Mr. Avenatti has
12 prepared his examination, but in order for it to proceed
13 smoothly, that's the way we will conduct it so that there's no
14 suggestion that standby counsel is handling the defense.

15 I'm, again, just throwing out these for you to think
16 about, but I'm sure there may be other approaches to this. But
17 I want to definitely make sure that we are all on the same page
18 about that and figure out an appropriate way to handle it so
19 that the government has an opportunity to object and that Mr.
20 Avenatti isn't able to testify to something that would be
21 improper under the rules of evidence.

22 So I want you to think about that and make sure we
23 have time to talk about it, perhaps at the time end of the
24 tomorrow or Monday morning if it looks like we will need to
25 decide before then.

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1 Anything else?

2 From the government.

3 MR. PODOLSKY: No, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: From Mr. Avenatti.

5 MR. AVENATTI: No, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. In that case, I will see you
7 same time tomorrow morning.

8 Have a good evening.

9 (Adjourned to January 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.)

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INDEX OF EXAMINATION

Examination of:	Page
-----------------	------

SEAN ERNESTO MACIAS

Cross By Mr. Avenatti	812
---------------------------------	-----

ENRIQUE SANTOS

Direct By Mr. Sobelman	832
----------------------------------	-----

Cross By Mr. Avenatti	851
---------------------------------	-----

Redirect By Mr. Sobelman	877
------------------------------------	-----

Recross By Mr. Avenatti	882
-----------------------------------	-----

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

Direct By Mr. Sobelman	883
----------------------------------	-----

Cross By Mr. Avenatti	1007
---------------------------------	------

GOVERNMENT EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Received
-------------	----------

S2	834
--------------	-----

612	836
---------------	-----

613	838
---------------	-----

6, 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20-21, 25, 26-28,	842
---	-----

28A, 29, 32-33, 33A, 34-42,

44-50, 50A, 51-55, 55A, 56-60,

and 60A-60D

22, 31 and 43	873
-------------------------	-----

603	888
---------------	-----

224	939
---------------	-----